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Editor's Note: The President was in Rome, Italy, on June 4, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, June 4, 2004

The President's Radio Address

May 29, 2004

Good morning. Monday is Memorial Day, and all across America this weekend, people are remembering those who fought for freedom and who gave their lives in service to their country.

Here in the Nation's Capital, Saturday has a special significance as we dedicate the World War II Memorial in the presence of thousands of veterans of that conflict. When it mattered most, an entire generation of Americans stepped forward to fight evil and show the finest qualities of our Nation and of humanity.

The World War II Memorial will stand forever as a tribute to the generation that fought that war and to the more than 400,000 Americans who gave their lives. Because of their sacrifice, tyrants fell; fascism and nazism were vanquished; and freedom prevailed.

Today, freedom faces new enemies, and a new generation of Americans has stepped forward to defeat them. Since the hour this Nation was attacked on September the 11th, 2001, we have seen the character of the men and women who wear our country's uniform. In places like Kabul and Kandahar, Mosul and Baghdad, we have seen their decency and brave spirit. And because of their fierce courage, America is safer, and two terror regimes are gone forever, and more than 50 million souls now live in freedom.

Our mission continues, and we will see it through to victory. We have a strategy to defeat our terrorist enemy and a plan to help establish lasting freedom in Iraq. The stakes are high, and they are clear. The enemy seeks to establish a new haven for terror and violence at the heart of the Middle East. They seek to force free nations to retreat into isolation and fear, yet we will persevere and defeat this enemy and hold this hard-won ground for the realm of liberty.

Those who have fought the battles of the war on terror and served the cause of freedom can be proud of all they have achieved. And these veterans of battle will carry with them for all their days the memory of the ones who did not live to be called veterans. Each man or woman we have laid to rest had hopes for the future and left a place that can never be filled. Each was the most important person in someone's life. For their families there is terrible sorrow, and we pray for their comfort. For the Nation there is a feeling of loss, and we remember each name.

Through our history, America has gone to war reluctantly because we have known the costs of war. And in every generation, it is the best among us who are called to pay that price. Those who have paid those costs have given us every moment we live in freedom, and every living American is in their debt. We can never repay what they gave for this country, but on this holiday, we acknowledge the debt by showing our respect and gratitude.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:45 p.m. on May 28 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 29. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 28 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at the Dedication of the National World War II Memorial

May 29, 2004

Thank you all very much. I'm honored to join with President Clinton, President Bush, Senator Dole, and other distinguished guests on this day of remembrance and celebration. And General Kelley, here in the company of the generation that won the war, I proudly

accept the World War II Memorial on behalf of the people of the United States of America.

Raising up this Memorial took skill and vision and patience. Now the work is done, and it is a fitting tribute, open and expansive like America, grand and enduring like the achievements we honor. The years of World War II were a hard, heroic, and gallant time in the life of our country. When it mattered most, an entire generation of Americans showed the finest qualities of our Nation and of humanity. On this day, in their honor, we will raise the American flag over a monument that will stand as long as America itself.

In the history books, the Second World War can appear as a series of crises and conflicts, following an inevitable course from Pearl Harbor to the coast of Normandy to the deck of the *Missouri*. Yet, on the day the war began and on many hard days that followed, the outcome was far from certain.

There was a time in the years before the war, when many earnest and educated people believed that democracy was finished. Men who considered themselves learned and civilized came to believe that free institutions must give way to the severe doctrines and stern discipline of a regimented society. Ideas first whispered in the secret councils of a remote empire or shouted in the beer halls of Munich became mass movements. And those movements became armies. And those armies moved mercilessly forward until the world saw Hitler strutting in Paris and U.S. Navy ships burning in their own port. Across the world, from a hiding place in Holland to prison camps of Luzon, the captives awaited their liberators.

Those liberators would come, but the enterprise would require the commitment and effort of our entire Nation. As World War II began, after a decade of economic depression, the United States was not a rich country. Far from being a great power, we had only the 17th largest army in the world. To fight and win on two fronts, Americans had to work and save and ration and sacrifice as never before. War production plants operated shifts around the clock. Across the country, families planted victory gardens, 20 million of them, producing 40 percent of the Nation's vegetables in backyards and on rooftops. Two out of every three citizens put money into war bonds. As Col. Oveta Culp Hobby said, "This was a people's war, and everyone was in it."

As life changed in America, so did the way that Americans saw our own country and its place in the world. The bombs at Pearl Harbor destroyed the very idea that America could live in isolation from the plots of aggressive powers. The scenes of the concentration camps, the heaps of bodies and ghostly survivors, confirmed forever America's calling to oppose the ideologies of death.

As we defended our ideals, we began to see that America is stronger when those ideals are fully implemented. America gained strength because women labored for victory and factory jobs, cared for the wounded, and wore the uniform themselves. America gained strength because African Americans and Japanese Americans and others fought for their country, which wasn't always fair to them. In time, these contributions became expectations of equality, and the advances for justice in postwar America made us a better country.

With all our flaws, Americans at that time had never been more united. And together we began and completed the largest single task in our history. At the height of conflict, America would have ships on every ocean and armies on five continents and, on the most crucial of days, would move the equivalent of a major city across the English Channel.

And all these vast movements of men and armor were directed by one man who could not walk on his own strength. President Roosevelt brought his own advantages to the job. His resolve was stronger than the will of any dictator. His belief in democracy was absolute. He possessed a daring that kept the enemy guessing. He spoke to Americans with an optimism that lightened their task. And one of the saddest days of the war came just as it was ending, when the casualty notice in the morning paper began with the name Franklin D. Roosevelt, Commander in Chief.

Across the years, we still know his voice. And from his words, we know that he understood the character of the American people. Dictators and their generals had dismissed Americans as no match for a master race.

FDR answered them. In one of his radio addresses, he said, "We have been described as a nation of weaklings, playboys. Let them tell that to General MacArthur and his men. Let them tell that to the boys in the flying fortresses. Let them tell that to the marines."

In all, more than 16 million Americans would put on the uniform of the soldier, the sailor, the airman, the marine, the coast guardsman, or the merchant mariner. They came from city streets and prairie towns, from public high schools and West Point. They were a modest bunch and still are. The ranks were filled with men like Army Private Joe Sakato. In heavy fighting in France, he saw a good friend killed and charged up the hill determined to shoot the ones who did it. Private Sakato ran straight into enemy fire, killing 12, wounding two, capturing four, and inspiring his whole unit to take the hill and destroy the enemy. Looking back on it 55 years later, Joe Sakato said, "I'm not a hero. Nowadays they call what I did 'road rage.' " [*Laughter*]

This man's conduct that day gained him the Medal of Honor, one of 464 awarded for actions in World War II. Americans in uniform served bravely, fought fiercely, and kept their honor even under the worst of conditions. Yet they were not warriors by nature. All they wanted was to finish the job and make it home. One soldier in the 58th Armor Field Artillery was known to have the best-kept rifle in the unit. He told his buddies he had plans for that weapon after the war. He said, "I want to take it home, cover it in salt, hang it on a wall in my living room so I can watch it rust."

These were the modest sons of a peaceful country, and millions of us are very proud to call them dad. They gave the best years of their lives to the greatest mission their country ever accepted. They faced the most extreme danger, which took some and spared others for reasons only known to God. And wherever they advanced or touched ground, they are remembered for their goodness and their decency. A Polish man recalls being marched through the German countryside in the last weeks of the war, when American forces suddenly appeared. He said, "Our two guards ran away. And this soldier with little blonde hair jumps off his tank. 'You're free,' he shouts at us. We started hugging each other, crying, and screaming, 'God sent angels down to pick us up out of this hell place.' "

Well, our boys weren't exactly angels. They were flesh and blood, with all the limits and fears of flesh and blood. That only makes the achievement more remarkable—the courage they showed in a conflict that claimed more than 400,000 American lives, leaving so many orphans and widows and Gold Star Mothers.

The soldiers' story was best told by the great Ernie Pyle, who shared their lives and died among them. In his book "Here Is Your War," he described World War II as many veterans now remember it. It is a picture, he wrote, "of tired and dirty soldiers, who are alive and don't want to die, of long, darkened convoys in the middle of the night, of shocked, silent men wandering back down the hill from battle, of Jeeps and petrol dumps and smelly bedding rolls and C-rations and blown bridges and dead mules and hospital tents and shirt collars greasy-black from months of wearing and of laughter too, and anger and wine and lovely flowers and constant cussing. All these, it is composed of and of graves and graves and graves."

On this Memorial Day weekend, the graves will be visited and decorated with flowers and flags. Men whose step has slowed are thinking of boys they knew when they were boys together. And women who watched the train leave and the years pass can still see the handsome face of their young sweetheart. America will not forget them either.

At this place, at this Memorial, we acknowledge a debt of long-standing to an entire generation of Americans, those who died, those who fought and worked and grieved and went on. They saved our country and thereby saved the liberty of mankind. And now I ask every man and woman who saw and lived World War II, every member of that generation to please rise as you are able and receive the thanks of our great Nation.

May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:09 p.m. on the Mall. In his remarks, he referred to former Senator Bob Dole, national chairman, World War II Memorial Campaign; and Gen P.X. Kelley, USMC

(Ret.), chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission.

Telephone Remarks to the Rolling Thunder Ride for Freedom

May 30, 2004

Thank you, Artie. It's great talking to you. I'm so pleased to speak to the members of Rolling Thunder as you attend the annual Ride for Freedom. I want to thank you for your leadership. You might tell them, Artie, that it was my honor to host you in the Oval Office—you and Mike Cobb and Gary Sheffmeyer and Jay Fairlamb and other special guests. I really appreciated you coming by to say hello.

I also received a letter from you last week, if you know, Artie. I thought you were going to offer me riding lessons—turned out you offered me Rolling Thunder's national endorsement for my reelection, and I want to thank you for your support. I'm really proud to have you stand by me—and the membership.

But more importantly, I appreciate the tremendous service that the members of Rolling Thunder perform on behalf of our veterans and active duty Armed Forces. I'm not surprised you're doing such good work because, like you, Artie, most are veterans. You understand the definition of sacrifice.

This weekend, as you mentioned, is Memorial Day, a day we honor the memory of the heroes who have fallen in battle. And I want to thank you for recognizing that, Artie, and I want to thank your vast membership for recognizing that as well.

I'm also calling to thank you because for 17 years you've worked to see that our war veterans are remembered, returned home, and reunited with their families. I know that your work and your persistence and your diligence means a lot to relatives all over our country who wonder about their loved one—the fate of their loved one. In the Oval Office, I looked you in the eye as you told me about your relentless pursuit of finding out the plight of many of our POW/MIAs, and I appreciate so very much your concern, your care, and your persistence.

I also want to thank you and your organization, Artie, for honoring the men and women of our military who fight today in Afghanistan and in Iraq. You and I know—both know that they're carrying out this mission, a mission which will make America more secure and the world more free, with incredible courage and compassion and skill.

I am proud to be the Commander in Chief of these brave Americans. I will do—I will always honor their service. I will do everything in my power to ensure that they and their families receive the gratitude and respect of our great Nation.

It's a high honor, Artie, to serve as President of this great country. I work every day to be worthy of that honor. And I'm calling to tell you how much I appreciate the great faith you and your organization have placed in me by endorsing me for a second term.

Ride safe. May God bless you. May God bless your families, and may God continue to bless our great country. Thanks a lot.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. from the Residence at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Artie Muller, president, Mike Cobb, chairman of the board, Gary Sheffmeyer, vice president, and Preston B. "Jay" Fairlamb, second vice president, Rolling Thunder, Inc.

Remarks at a Memorial Day Ceremony in Arlington, Virginia

May 31, 2004

Thank you all very much. Thank you all. Welcome. Mr. Secretary, thank you for your great leadership as Secretary of Defense for our country. General Myers, members of the United States military, veterans, honored guests, and fellow Americans. This morning I had the honor of placing a wreath before the Tomb of the Unknowns. This custom is observed every Memorial Day on behalf of the American people as a mark of gratitude and respect.

And when this ceremony is concluded and all of us have gone on our way, the Honor Guard will keep watch over the Tomb. Every hour of every day, on the coldest nights, in the hardest rain, there is a sentinel of the 3d U.S. Infantry standing guard. The soldiers entrusted with that duty count it a privilege.

And today, as we reflect on the men and women who have died in the defense of America, all of us count it a privilege to be citizens of the country they served.

In the military tradition, no one is left behind on the field of battle. And our Nation is determined to account for all of the missing. The same spirit can be seen in the respect we show to each life laid down for this Nation. We receive them in sorrow, and we take them to an honored place to rest. At this and other cemeteries across our country and in cemeteries abroad where heroes fell, America acknowledges a debt that is beyond our power to repay.

This weekend, we dedicated the World War II Memorial, which will stand forever as a tribute to the generation that fought that war and the more than 400,000 Americans who fell. Some here today can turn their minds back across 60 years and see the face of a buddy who never made it home. You are veterans who have not forgotten your comrades, and America will always honor the achievements and the character of your brave generation.

Through our history, America has gone to war reluctantly because we have known the costs of war, and the war on terror we're fighting today has brought great costs of its own. Since the hour this Nation was attacked, we have seen the character of the men and women who wear our country's uniform. In places like Kabul and Kandahar, in Mosul and Baghdad, we have seen their decency and their brave spirit. Because of their fierce courage, America is safer; two terror regimes are gone forever; and more than 50 million souls now live in freedom.

Those who have fought these battles and served this cause can be proud of all they have achieved. And these veterans of battle will carry with them for all their days the memory of the ones who did not live to be called veterans. They will remember young soldiers like Captain Joshua Byers, a West Point man born in South Carolina who died in Iraq. When this son of missionaries was given command of a 120-man combat unit, he wrote this to his parents: "I will give the men everything I have to give. I love them already, just because they're mine. I pray with all my heart that I will be able to take every single one of them home safe when we finish our mission here."

Sergeant Major Michael Stack, who was laid to rest at Arlington, wore the uniform for 28 years and is remembered as a soldier's soldier. The sergeant major must have been quite a guy. When he was a young platoon sergeant, the recruits gave him a nickname, No Slack Billy Jack Stack. [*Laughter*] By all accounts, he was the kind of man you want in charge of a tough situation. And by the account of his mother, he finished his goodbyes with these words: "Mom, I'm going because I believe in what I am doing. And if I don't come back, we will meet in a better place."

Those who risked their lives on our behalf are often very clear about what matters most in their own lives, and they tell it to those they love. Master Sergeant Kelly Hornbeck of the Special Forces was killed in action last January, south of Samarra. To his parents back in Fort Worth, Texas, he wrote this: "I am not afraid, and neither should either of you be, for I trust in my God and my training, two powerful forces that cannot be fully measured."

After Private First Class Jesse Givens of Springfield, Missouri, was lost last May, his family received a letter he had written to them in the event of his death. He wrote this to his son, Dakota: "You've taught me that life isn't so serious, and sometimes you just have to play. You have a big, beautiful heart. Through your life, you need to keep it open and follow it. I will always be there in our park when you dream, so we can play." To his wife, Melissa, Private Givens wrote, "Do me a favor after you tuck the children in. Give them hugs and kisses from me. Go outside and look at the stars and count them. Don't forget to smile." This is the quality of the people in our uniform.

And this is the loss to our Nation. Markers on these hills record the names of more than 280,000 men and women. Each was once or still is the most important person in someone's life. With each loss in war, the world changed forever for the family and friends left behind. Each loss left others to go on, counting the years of separation, and living in the hope of reunion.

Although the burden of grief can become easier to bear, always there is the memory of another time and the feeling of sadness over an unfinished life. Yet, the completeness of a life is not measured in length only. It is measured in the deeds and commitments that give a life its purpose. And the commitment of these lives was clear to all: They defended our Nation; they liberated the oppressed; they served the cause of peace. And all Americans who have known the loss and sadness of war, whether recently or long ago, can know this: The person they love and miss is honored and remembered by the United States of America. May God bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:24 a.m. in the Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery.

Remarks to the White House National Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

June 1, 2004

Thank you all for coming. Thank you all. Please be seated, thanks for coming. Thank you so much.

I want to thank you all for caring about your country enough that you are here to inspire others as to how to save lives. Welcome to Washington, DC. I want to thank Tonja Myles, the director of Set Free Indeed, from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for introducing me. Tonja is—when I talk about people involved in saving people's lives, I'm speaking about people like Tonja and those on the stage with me. You heard their stories. I have too. And on behalf of a grateful nation, I thank them and you for serving in the army of compassion.

By feeding the hungry, by healing the addicted, by loving and caring for refugees, you represent the true strength, the real strength, the genuine strength of the United States of America. And I am grateful for what you do.

We're here to talk today about the relationship between people of faith and Government policy. I believe it is in the national interest that Government stand side by side with people of faith who work to change lives for the better. I understand in the past, some in Government have said Government cannot stand side by side with people of faith. Let me put it more bluntly, Government can't spend money on religious programs simply because there's a rabbi on the board, cross on the wall, or a crescent on the door. I viewed this as not only bad social policy—because policy bypassed the great works of compassion and healing that take place—I viewed it as discrimination. And we needed to change it.

So we've hosted regional conferences to raise the issue. I try to talk about the Faith-Based Initiative a lot. Part of my job is to say to the American people, "Here is a fantastic opportunity to help America become what we want it to be, a land of hope and promise and love and compassion."

And so we're—and we're having regional conferences like this. I'm proud to report that we've reached more than 10,000 faith-based and community groups with the message that we want your help, that the Federal Government now welcomes your work, and do not fear being discriminated against by the Government.

Listen, I fully understand there are people in the faith community who have said, "Why do I want to interface with the Federal Government?" [*Laughter*] "Why would I want to interface with a group of people that want to try to get me to not practice my faith?" It's hard to be a faith-based program if you can't practice faith, and the message to you is, "We're changing the culture here in America."

And we're making progress. We're changing the attitude here in Washington, DC. I want to thank the Cabinet Secretaries who are here. It should indicate to you that my Cabinet not only has gotten the directive from the President that I expect all Cabinets to be open to faith-based programs, but it should speak to the character of the people who I've called to serve the country. Secretary Ann Veneman, Elaine Chao, Rod Paige, Tony Principi, thank you all for coming today. Hector Barreto of the SBA and Andrew Natsios of USAID, thank you all for coming. I see the Justice Department is represented by Deputy Attorney General Jim Comey. Thank you all for coming. This is a—HUD is represented.

Listen, what I'm telling you is, is that I told our Government, the people in my Government, "Rather than fear faith programs, welcome them. They're changing America. They do a better job than Government can do." [*Applause*] Thank you all.

I know Jim Ryun is here, the Congressman from Kansas, and his wife, Anne. Thanks for coming. There he is. My advice is don't go jogging with him. [*Laughter*]

I have to tell you, I came from a—what we call a roundtable—the table happened to be square, but it's one of those Government things—[*laughter*]—where I met with some healers and doers and community changers.

Mark Franken is the executive director of Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops—is with us. Wintley Phipps is the founder, president, and CEO of the U.S. Dream Academy, from Columbia, Maryland. Archbishop Harry Flynn of the Archdiocese of Minneapolis; Bishop Don Wuerl, the Bishop of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; my friend from the great State of Texas, Tony Evans of the Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship. There's a few Texans here, Tony, that know of you. Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, California; Reverend Cheryl Anthony Mobley is the founder and CEO of the Judah International, from Brooklyn; and from a local church here, Jim Sprouse, the pastor of Trinity United Methodist.

We talked about what they see, what they hear, the frustrations in dealing with the Government. It's part of making sure—this outreach is part of making sure that I hear as best I can firsthand from people whether or not the strategy is being properly implemented, because I understand amongst our prosperity there is suffering still and despair in America. And that troubles every American, regardless of their political standing or where they're from. Where there is despair, we must work to provide hope. Where there is loneliness, we must work to provide love.

There are men and women in our country who doubt, who have serious doubts about what we call the American Dream. And that—as the President of a country who has heralded the American Dream, that's troubling to realize that some citizens simply cannot connect with that notion of dreaming about the future. There are—there is loneliness, and you know what I'm talking about. There are people who are so addicted to alcohol and drugs that their vision is clouded, that they can't see a more hopeful tomorrow. These are the types of problems we face.

As well our great Nation receives tens of thousands of refugees, which is good, by the way, that America be a welcoming society. These souls flee persecution and need help when they come to our country. Not only are there people in our neighborhoods who are addicted and lonely and homeless and hungry; there are people who've come from faraway lands that need the same concern and care and love that our fellow citizens receive.

We've got teenage mothers in America who feel abandoned and in need. There are children in America, whose mom or dad is in prison, wondering whether or not there's any hope. In other words, we got problems in this society, and those of us who have been given the high honor of holding office must utilize every resource, every power we have to help solve those problems for the good of the country.

See, I understand the limitations of government. Governments can hand out money. But governments cannot put love in a person's heart or a sense of purpose in a person's life. The truth of the matter is that comes when a loving citizen puts their arm around a brother and sister in need and says, "I love you, and God loves you, and together we can perform miracles."

And miracles happen all the time in America. They happen because loving souls take time out of their lives to spread compassion and love. And lives are changing. Listen, our society is going to change, one heart and one soul at a time. It changes from the bottom up, not the top down. It changes when the soldiers in the armies of compassion feel wanted, encouraged, and empowered. And that's what the Faith-Based and Community Initiative is all about. How do we gather up the strength of the country, the vibrancy of faith-based programs? The social entrepreneurs, how do we encourage them?

And one way to do so is to hold conferences like these that, frankly, give me a chance and a platform to speak to the country

and say as clearly as I can, "We welcome the army of compassion. We understand the power of faith in America, and the Federal Government will assist—not discriminate against you."

There is no better way to clarify for our fellow citizens the power of faith-based programs than to speak about examples, to hold up stories about lives who have been changed, starting with Veronica Braewell.

I just met with Veronica. The folks I told you were at the roundtable met with Veronica. Veronica is—was from Liberia. She's a refugee. She was telling us what it's like to see the violence and horror that took place in that country as rebel groups swept through the land, taking lives if they just felt like it. And this young lady clearly has got a large heart and deep concern for her fellow citizens. She came, and the Catholic Social Agency in Allentown, Pennsylvania—a faith-based group, by the way—took her and her family into their collective bosom and loved them. And they helped her find jobs and a place to live and clothing and transportation.

You can imagine what it would be like to be a young girl coming from Liberia, having been traumatized by violence, to a strange country. Fortunately, her arrival was aided by people who said, "Gosh, what can I do to help change somebody's life and to help them?" She's just completed her training to be a nursing assistant. Soon, she'll start work at a senior care facility near her home. She said this, "It's like a second hope again. I believe in myself. I am grateful to God." Thanks to the Catholic Social Agency in Allentown, Pennsylvania, a soul has been lifted.

Elijah Anyieth is with us. He was born in a rural village in Sudan. He fled as a young man when his village was bombed, and he just wandered—talked about sleeping on the ground, looking for food. Fortunately, the Commonwealth Catholic Charities helped rescue him, and he found a home near Richmond, Virginia. With the help of the program, he graduated from high school with honors. Last month, he finished his first year of college. He's studying to be a mechanical engineer. Here's what he said, "When I imagine my life now and how it would have been, I can't find ways to thank them enough." He's talking about the Commonwealth Catholic Charities staff. See, the faith-based program helped save this guy's life and helped him have a bright future.

I met Derrill Frazier. He should be up here, not me. Needless to say, when his story is—he's a young guy. He's never seen his mom or rarely sees his mom, never met his dad, who is in prison, serving a lifetime in prison. By the way, his grandmother, Constance Morgan, brought him here today. It was my honor to meet Constance. You know what she told me? She said, "Mr. President, I pray for you."

Derrill joined the U.S. Dream Academy. It's a mentorship program funded by the Health and Human Services. See, Health and Human Services is now funding a faith-based program that encourages mentors, people to interface in the lives of a fellow like Derrill who wonders whether there's any hope for him. He plays basketball, and he talks about his favorite subject—this is with his mentor—U.S. history. I kind of liked U.S. history too. [*Laughter*]

Here's what he said: "I don't sit around just watching TV anymore. I like school. If I don't go to school, I can't reach my goals—to go to college and become a lawyer." See, here's a fellow who all of the sudden has got a goal. He's been inspired by something government really can't provide, which is a loving person to interface with him in a way that helps—changes his life.

The grant came out of the Federal Government to help fund this mentoring program. It is money well spent. The taxpayers of the country must understand that we should not focus on the process; we ought to focus on the results.

Let me tell you about this story. It is a success story because of a faith-based program. Brad Lassiter—he's the youngest of 17 children. He spent most of his childhood without a home. His education ended in the fourth grade. Essentially, he was abandoned and lived on the street, got addicted to drugs, took a bullet in the mouth, actually, at one point in his life, went to prison. And Gospel Rescue Ministries gave him a place to live when he came out of prison. See, he started reading the Bible in prison. It is a powerful change agent when you start reading the

Bible in prison. And this guy was lost, and now he's found.

He said this—here's what Brad said. Brad said, "God blessed me. The Mission gave me an opportunity to change my life spiritually, education-wise, and to build character. They made me want to change." Actually, they were the agents, Brad. They were just the messenger. When he finished his recovery—I want you to hear the story—this is a guy abandoned on the streets, drug addict, couldn't read beyond the third grade. He now has a job at the World Bank, and he's going to college to study computer science.

America changes one heart at a time, one soul at a time, and while our fellow citizens can't do everything, they can do something to help change America one soul at a time. That's the philosophy behind the faith-based groups. It is the Government's strong desire to empower this fabric, this social fabric of our society where faith-based programs large and small feel empowered, encouraged, and welcomed into changing lives.

Look, I fully understand it's important to maintain the separation of church and state. We don't want the state to become the church, nor do we want the church to become the state. We're on common agreement there. But I do believe that groups should be allowed to access social service grants so long as they don't proselytize or exclude somebody simply because they don't share a certain faith. In other words, there's a way to accomplish the separation of church and state and, at the same time, accomplish the social objective of having America become a hopeful place and a loving place. And so I want to—so the question this administration is starting to ask or is asking is, "Are you getting the results?" That's all we care about. Are you meeting the standards of church and state, and are you getting results? And if so, if you say, "Yes," the Federal Government, rather than being fearful of you, ought to say, "Thank you. Thank you for doing your mission to change the United States of America."

So I wanted to make sure that the faith-based groups simply got equal access and equal treatment when it came to the billions of dollars we spend at the Federal level. That was the first step toward making sure the Faith-Based Initiative was strong and vibrant.

And of course, it got stuck in the Congress. [*Laughter*] It's a process debate that takes places up on Capitol Hill rather than a results-oriented debate. If you're a results-oriented debater, you say, "All I care about is making sure that the addict receives help. And if it takes changing a person's heart to change addiction, we ought to welcome the power that changes a person's heart in our society."

So I got frustrated and signed an Executive order. [*Laughter*] And it said that—it directed the Federal agencies, which are run by some of the folks here, that we will reverse regulations that discriminate against faith-based organizations. There were regulations on the books that made it nearly impossible for people of faith—all faiths, by the way. When you hear me talk about faith, I'm talking about all faiths, whether it be the Jewish faith or the Christian faith or the Muslim faith or the Hindu faith. All faiths have got the power to transform lives.

In other words, they made it easier for people of all faith to access the billions—we spend billions of dollars here in Washington, DC. And those billions ought to be open for grantmaking. In other words, if you're able to show that you're successful at meeting social objectives, then you ought to be allowed to access the money. That's my attitude.

And so we're making progress. I'm here to give you a progress report. They spent $1.1 billion on grants to faith-based groups. It's kind of hard to fully account for it. I would call that an estimate; $1.1 billion, it's an increase of 15 percent over 2002. That's good progress. However, there's a lot more money available. That's what I hope the conference explains to you, that there is money throughout our Government available for faith-based programs. And the idea is to teach you how to access that money, how to make sure the grantmaking process is understandable, and how to make sure that people in your communities do not fear the bureaucracy interfering in your mission, which is a vital part of having a strong, vibrant, Faith-Based Initiative.

The other thing that's important is I wanted to make sure that as we—as people access

Federal money, that it not go to the same programs over and over and over again. In other words, part of what we're trying to do is spur entrepreneurship, is to provide money for new programs to flourish and bloom. Remember, a faith-based program can be a mega-church—and by the way, there's some fantastic churches in our country who spread faith throughout their ministry—or it can be a five-person staff. What we're interested in is the ability for programs to change lives. That's what we're interested in.

I was talking to Tony Evans. Tony and I—he's come up with a fantastic idea, by the way, to encourage more leverage in the faith community: Inner-city churches need to work with suburban churches and become the conduit for monies going into the inner city. The reason why is, is that the inner-city church is what we call at the grassroots. They understand the programs that work and the programs that don't work. Evans also assures me that as of being—as a result of being a successful church, in the sense that it's got a lot of building, a lot of members, and a pretty good-sized budget—by the way, he started with a—in a house; he started small and grew big—that he is willing to help young churches and faith-based programs in inner-city Dallas, Texas, as to how to accomplish the mission, how to grow from little to big, how to grow from wanting to be vibrant to successful. And that's what the Faith-Based Initiative is meant to do. It's meant to allow for access of Federal money but at the same time spawn the entrepreneurial spirit, what I call social entrepreneurs, and encourage their growth.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded $113 million in grants to first-time faith-based recipients. So in other words, what I'm telling you is, it's one thing to make sure that the grant process is open. It's another thing to make sure that as we—as money goes out the door, that it does so not only to achieve results but to encourage the development and expansion of faith-based programs throughout the country. There's a lot to do. Don't get me wrong. One of the great things about these meetings is we get feedback to improve the regulatory process. Look, I fully concede there's a lot of regulations in Washington. [*Laughter*] And we can always work to further reduce the impact of regulation, and we expect feedback from people who are frustrated and/or happy with the process you see.

The Departments of Labor, Agriculture, Health and Human Services have issued new regulations. In other words, we're constantly fine-tuning regulations to enforce the principle of equal treatment throughout their agencies. Education and Veteran Affairs have now completed theirs. And so one of the things that we've got to constantly work here on Washington is to make sure we take your feedback and change practice, obviously within the law, so that we can better hear the voices of those who are changing our country.

USAID—many of you who have got operations overseas have interfaced with USAID. I appreciate Andrew Natsios changing—proposing regulations to end the discrimination against faith-based groups receiving foreign grants.

So to make sure all this is coordinated, I picked Jim Towey. Where are you, Towey? There he is. Yes, he's over in the corner. See, he—Towey was Mother Teresa's lawyer. [*Laughter*] Now that is a litigious society if Mother Teresa needs a lawyer. [*Laughter*] Anyway, he's a good one.

So he has an office in the White House. I see Towey a lot because this is an initiative that is important for America and the future. Jim's job has been to set up these meetings to listen to people out in the field, to answer questions. His job is to answer my questions, like how much money has gone out the door? It's one thing to have a Faith-Based Initiative, but if nobody is getting any grants, it's just paper. I'm not interested in paper. I'm not—I'm here—I'm not here—I'm here to try to make a change for the better. I'm interested in results. Towey has heard me say it a lot. "Are we succeeding? And if not, what is causing us—what is frustrating—where are the bottlenecks to success? Where are the problems?" He's constantly asking those questions.

That's why we set up faith-based offices in the Cabinet—in our Cabinet agencies. See, I want somebody responsible so when they report to the Secretary and I get on the Secretary, the Secretary can take it back

down the chain of command and say, "Why are we frustrating people here? How come we haven't done a better job?" They're constantly asking the questions of their faith-based offices to make sure that the mission is accomplished.

Now, look, one of the—part of the feedback we've gotten is that there's a bottleneck at the State and local governments. Some of the money—[*applause*]—yes, see what I mean? [*Laughter*] Some of the money is block-granted to States. And therefore, if there's not a Governor who has a faith-based office who understands the vast potential of changing their State, you'll be frustrated. I know that. So part of our mission is to work with you to help change the attitude at the State level. We got our hands full here, by the way, too. Don't get me wrong. [*Laughter*] There's a bureaucratic mindset that we're working to change in Washington, but we also want to help you with the Governors and mayors.

There are—there's 20 Governors and over 100 mayors who have faith-based offices. I think when people realize that more money is now available to the faith communities, they'll change their attitude about whether or not to be accommodating to faith-based programs. I think they'll change their attitude. They should change their attitude because if they dig into their societies, get in the cities, and find out the lives that are being changed and realize their communities are better for it, they will say, "Give me the results." They'll say, "I'm a better mayor or Governor because lives are changing, not because of me but because of the faith community that's changing America one heart at a time."

I have called upon Congress. Not only do we want to make sure that the monies being spent now are accessible to the faith community but we want to make sure that—I've called upon for some specific programs to help the faith community. One is called Access to Recovery. It is a $100 million initiative to help the addict—is what it is. It's an interesting approach to funding social programs. In this case, we actually fund the addict. In other words, the money goes to the addict, and the addict gets to choose the program that is best for her or him. It's a change in attitude. Generally, we kind of tend to fund the program, oftentimes not asking whether they're effective or not. This time we're sending the money to the addict so that the addict can make the decision that meets his or her needs. I will tell you, the cornerstone of any good recovery program is the understanding there is a Higher Being to which—to whom you can turn your life and therefore save your life. It is the crux of many, many a successful addiction program. It—and our Government ought to understand that. Congress needs to provide ample money for the Access to Recovery initiative to help addicts change their lives by saving their lives.

I am deeply concerned about a society in which many boys and girls need love. They need—and I mentioned to you my concern about a child whose mom or dad is in prison. It's got to be incredibly lonely to have your mom or dad in prison, wondering whether or not—she's wondering whether there's any hope, you know?

And there is hope, particularly when that child feels love. And so I've asked Congress to provide money for mentoring programs, particularly for a child who—whose mom or dad is in prison. And many of those mentoring programs come right out of inner-city churches and suburban churches. Listen, some of the best mentoring programs in America happen out of our churches and synagogues and mosques. And we ought not to be afraid of funding of those programs.

After all, if you exist because you've heard the universal call to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself, if that is the creed, the cornerstone, then surely out of that organization will come people who are willing to do so. And part of loving your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself is mentoring a child and saying, "You may be lonely, but I love you," and "What can I do to help lift your spirit?" So I put in funding requests for programs such as this.

Six hundred thousand—more than 600,000 inmates will be released from prison this year. Those are a lot of souls that need help coming into our society. I can't think of a better place for a prisoner to go—is to a church or a synagogue or a mosque and say, "I need help. I have just come out of incarceration, and can you help me with my

life and the future? Can you provide guidance for me?" And so we've got a $300 million initiative I put before Congress to help with these prison reentry programs, all of which will give our faith community a chance to heal the broken heart.

One of the things—I'll never forget this—when I was the Governor of Texas, one of the early initiatives in my governorship, one of the faith-based initiatives, was to turn over a part of the prison unit to a faith program, Chuck Colson's program. He convinced me that this would be a great opportunity to change lives. And it would be better than stamping license plates. And so we put a voluntary program in the prison unit in Fort Bend County, Texas—the Sugarland, Texas, area. And I went over to see the program, and sure enough, I was talking about it on the microphones and out comes the prison choir. Now, this wasn't exactly a really large choir. It was probably 10 people. And I got in the mood and starting singing "Amazing Grace" with the Sugarland Prison choir, from this unit that was a faith-based unit. And I'm rocking back and forth with a guy, and on the front page of the Houston Chronicle is a picture—[*laughter*]—is a picture of me and a guy who has been in prison for 19 years for murder. [*Laughter*] The other day, we have a meeting in the White House, in the Roosevelt Room, and sure enough, sitting next to me is the guy who I rocked with who is now—[*laughter*]—whose life was changed and saved because of faith.

I'm telling America we need to not discriminate against faith-based programs. We need to welcome them so our society is more wholesome, more welcoming, and more hopeful for every single citizen.

I want to thank you all for coming. Thank you all. One last word: I want to thank you for coming. It warms my heart to know that I am the President of a country full of so many decent, caring people. The strength of this country is not our military or the size of our wallets. The strength of this country is the hearts and souls of the American people. That is the thing, in my judgment, that makes this country unique and different and strong. My job as the President of the United States is understand that and, as best as I humanly can, to elevate the spirit of the country, to call upon people to follow their hearts, to say to the Federal Government, "Stand beside these soldiers, not against them. Be a wind at their back, not at their face, so that America can reach its full potential, so every citizen, regardless of race, creed, background, can have a chance to realize the full promise, the full extended promise of the greatest country on the face of this Earth."

May God bless you and your works, and may God continue to bless the United States of America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:22 a.m. at the Washington Hilton and Towers. In his remarks, he referred to Charles W. Colson, founder, Prison Fellowship Ministries.

Executive Order 13342—Responsibilities of the Departments of Commerce and Veterans Affairs and the Small Business Administration With Respect to Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

June 1, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to help the Federal Government coordinate a national effort to expand opportunities for faith-based and other community organizations and to strengthen their capacity to better meet America's social and community needs, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment of Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the Departments of Commerce and Veterans Affairs and the Small Business Administration.*

(a) The Secretaries of Commerce and Veterans Affairs and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall each establish within their respective agencies a Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (Center).

(b) Each of these Centers shall be supervised by a Director, appointed by the agency head in consultation with the White House

Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (White House OFBCI).

(c) Each agency shall provide its Center with appropriate staff, administrative support, and other resources to meet its responsibilities under this order.

(d) Each Center shall begin operations no later than 45 days from the date of this order.

Sec. 2. *Purpose of Executive Branch Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.* The purpose of the agency Centers will be to coordinate agency efforts to eliminate regulatory, contracting, and other programmatic obstacles to the participation of faith-based and other community organizations in the provision of social and community services.

Sec. 3. *Responsibilities of the Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.* Each Center shall, to the extent permitted by law:

(a) conduct, in coordination with the White House OFBCI, an agency-wide audit to identify all existing barriers to the participation of faith-based and other community organizations in the delivery of social and community services by the agency, including but not limited to regulations, rules, orders, procurement, and other internal policies and practices, and outreach activities that either facially discriminate against or otherwise discourage or disadvantage the participation of faith-based and other community organizations in Federal programs;

(b) coordinate a comprehensive agency effort to incorporate faith-based and other community organizations in agency programs and initiatives to the greatest extent possible;

(c) propose initiatives to remove barriers identified pursuant to section 3(a) of this order, including but not limited to reform of regulations, procurement, and other internal policies and practices, and outreach activities;

(d) propose the development of innovative pilot and demonstration programs to increase the participation of faith-based and other community organizations in Federal as well as State and local initiatives; and

(e) develop and coordinate agency outreach efforts to disseminate information more effectively to faith-based and other community organizations with respect to programming changes, contracting opportunities, and other agency initiatives, including but not limited to Web and Internet resources.

Sec. 4. *Reporting Requirements.* (a) *Report.* Not later than 180 days from the date of this order and annually thereafter, each of the three Centers described in section 1 of this order shall prepare and submit a report to the President through the White House OFBCI.

(b) *Contents.* The report shall include a description of the agency's efforts in carrying out its responsibilities under this order, including but not limited to:

(i) a comprehensive analysis of the barriers to the full participation of faith-based and other community organizations in the delivery of social and community services identified pursuant to section 3(a) of this order and the proposed strategies to eliminate those barriers; and

(ii) a summary of the technical assistance and other information that will be available to faith-based and other community organizations regarding the program activities of the agency and the preparation of applications or proposals for grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and procurement.

(c) *Performance Indicators.* The first report, filed pursuant to section 4(a) of this order, shall include annual performance indicators and measurable objectives for agency action. Each report filed thereafter shall measure the agency's performance against the objectives set forth in the initial report.

Sec. 5. *Responsibilities of the Secretaries of Commerce and Veterans Affairs and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.* The Secretaries and the Administrator shall:

(a) designate an employee within their respective agencies to serve as the liaison and point of contact with the White House OFBCI; and

(b) cooperate with the White House OFBCI and provide such information, support, and assistance to the White House OFBCI as it may request, to the extent permitted by law.

Sec. 6. *Administration and Judicial Review.* (a) The agency actions directed by this executive order shall be carried out subject

to the availability of appropriations and to the extent permitted by law.

(b) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 1, 2004.

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NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on June 3.

The President's News Conference

June 1, 2004

Iraqi Interim Government

The President. Good morning. Today in Baghdad, U.N. Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi and Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Alawi announced the members of Iraq's new interim government. Consulting with hundreds of Iraqis from a variety of backgrounds, Mr. Brahimi has recommended a team that possesses the talent, commitment, and resolve to guide Iraq through the challenges that lie ahead.

On June 30th, this interim government will assume full sovereignty and will oversee all ministries and all functions of the Iraqi state. Those ministries will report to Prime Minister Alawi, who will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of Iraq's interim government. Dr. Alawi is a strong leader. He endured exile for decades and survived assassination attempts by Saddam's regime. He was trained as a physician, has worked as a businessman, and has always been an Iraqi patriot.

Prime Minister Alawi and Mr. Brahimi announced Iraq's interim President, Ghazi al-Yawr, an engineer from northern Iraq. They also announced two Deputy Presidents, Dr. Ibrahim Jafari, who is a physician born in Karbala, and Dr. Rowsch Shaways, a prominent political and military leader who also has been a longtime opponent of Saddam's tyranny.

The new 33-member cabinet announced today reflects new leadership, drawn from a broad cross section of Iraqis. Five are regional officials, six are women, and the vast majority of government ministries will have new ministers. The foremost tasks of this new interim government will be to prepare Iraq for a national election no later than January of next year and to work with our coalition to provide the security that will make that election possible. That election will choose a transitional national assembly, the first freely elected, truly representative national governing body in Iraq's history.

Earlier today I spoke to Secretary-General Kofi Annan. I congratulated him on the U.N.'s role in forming this new government. We also discussed the preparation for national elections and our common work on a new Security Council resolution that will express international support for Iraq's interim government, reaffirm the world's security commitment to the Iraqi people and encourage other U.N. members to join in the effort of building a free Iraq.

Last week, I outlined the five steps to helping Iraq achieve democracy and freedom. We will hand over authority to a sovereign Iraqi government, help establish security, continue rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure, encourage more international support, and move toward a national election that will bring forward new leaders empowered by the Iraqi people. The naming of the new interim government brings us one step closer to realizing the dream of millions of Iraqis, a fully sovereign nation with a representative government that protects their rights and serves their needs.

Many challenges remain. Today's violence underscores that freedom in Iraq is opposed by violent men who seek the failure not only of this interim government but of all progress toward liberty. We will stand with the Iraqi people in defeating the enemies of freedom and those who oppose democracy in Iraq. The killers know that Iraq is the central front in the war on terror. The return of tyranny to Iraq would embolden the terrorists, leading to more bombings, more beheadings, and more murders of the innocent around the world.

The rise of a free and self-governing Iraq will deny terrorists a base of operation, discredit their narrow ideology, and give momentum to reformers across the region. A free Iraq will be a decisive blow to terrorism at the heart of its power and a victory for the civilized world and for the security of America. The will of Iraqis and our coalition is firm. We will not be deterred by violence and terror. We will stand together and ensure that the future of Iraq is a future of freedom.

I'll take some questions. Hunt [Terence Hunt, Associated Press].

Terrorism in Iraq/International Support for Iraqi Transition

Q. Mr. President, you just spoke about more international support. With the new government and the expected Security Council resolution, do you expect—what do you expect in the way of other countries to come forward with major pledges of troops for Iraq? And do you think there's going to be more violence as the turnover occurs?

The President. I think, on the second half of that question, yes, I believe there will be more violence, because there are still violent people who want to stop progress. Listen, their strategy is—hasn't changed. They want to kill innocent lives to shake our will and to discourage the people inside Iraq. That's what they want to do, and they're not going to shake our will.

In terms of whether or not there would be a major—you said major commitment of new troops? Is that the adjective you used, "major"?

Q. Yes, sir.

The President. I don't know if there will be a major commitment of new troops, but I think there will be a major focus on helping Iraq to become a free country. And the next step in this process is to get a United Nations Security Council resolution. And to this end, I have been speaking with a variety of world leaders to encourage them to—by telling them we're willing to work with them to achieve language we can live with but, more importantly, language that the Iraqi government can live with.

And Kofi and I talked today, and he wants to hear from the new Iraqi government, and I don't blame him. And we heard from the new Iraqi government, by the way, today, and the new Prime Minister who stood up and thanked the American people, for which I was grateful. He was speaking to the mothers and dads and wives and husbands of our brave troops who have helped them become a free country, and I appreciated his strong statement.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Iraqi Governing Council's Role in Selection Process

Q. Sir, were you surprised at the way the Governing Council took command of the selection process? And are you concerned that the new President has had some criticisms of the United States?

The President. No, I don't—from my perspective, Mr. Brahimi made the decisions and brought their names to the Governing Council. As I understand it, the Governing Council simply opined about names. It was Mr. Brahimi's selections, and Ambassador Bremer and Ambassador Blackwill were instructed by me to work with Mr. Brahimi. As we say in American sports parlance, he was the quarterback. And it seemed like a good group to me. I mean, they're diverse; as I mentioned, a number of women are now involved in the government, which is a positive step for the citizens of Iraq.

Go ahead.

Iraqi Interim Government

Q. The new President has had some criticisms of the United States. Are you——

The President. The new President has had some criticisms?

Q. ——concerned about that?

The President. Well, Mr. Brahimi put together a government that's going to be, first and foremost, loyal to the Iraqi people. And that's important. It's a government with which I believe we can work. Mr. Alawi said some strong statements today about security matters on the ground, about how he wants to work with the coalition forces to provide security so that the country can go toward elections.

But you know, I'm—what I'm most for is for people who are willing to work toward a free Iraq. That's my concern. And it sounds like to me that these men are patriots—men

and women are patriots who believe in the future of Iraq. And if there is some criticism of the United States, so be it. My—what I—the end result is a peaceful Iraq in the heart of the Middle East.

Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News].

Coalition Security Arrangement With Iraqi Interim Government

Q. Mr. President, this new Iraqi government and others on the Security Council have expressed an interest in this interim government having substantial power over decisions—military security decisions. This Government has been clear that when it comes to protecting U.S. troops, American commanders will do everything that has to be done.

The President. Right.

Q. Well, as you go to Europe now, in the next couple of days, what are you prepared to do to bridge that gap, to give this new independent government the sort of independence it's really asking for while retaining this essential role that you have to have in, you know, securing Iraq?

The President. No, I think—listen, the American people need to be assured that if our troops are in harm's way, they will be able to defend themselves without having to check with anybody else, other than their commander. At the same time, I can assure the Iraqi citizens as well as our friends in Europe that we have done these kind of security arrangements before. Witness Afghanistan. There is a sovereign government in Afghanistan. There are U.S. troops and coalition troops there, and they're working very well together.

The Iraqis will have their own chain of command. And that's going to be very important. In other words, the Iraqi army will report up to a chain of command of Iraqis, not coalitions or Americans. And I think that's going to be an important part of the spirit and the capabilities of an Iraqi army. But I'm confident we can bridge any gap, David, because we have done it in country after country.

Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Iraqi Interim Government

Q. Mr. President, some will see the presence of Iraqi exiles, some of whom have received money from the United States Government in the past, as proof, in their minds, that this is a puppet government of the United States. Could you answer that criticism and explain what role, if any, you had in the names, as they——

The President. I had no role. I mean, occasionally, somebody said, "This person may be interested, or that," but I had no role in picking—zero.

Secondly, in terms of whether or not our Government helped, we did help some of the figures now in the interim government. We helped them because they were fierce anti-Saddam people. We helped their organizations, which were—which believed that the tyranny of Saddam was bad for the Iraqi people.

Now, it's going to be up to the leaders to prove their worth to the Iraqi citizens. In other words, the leaders are going to have to show the Iraqis that they're independent, smart, capable, nationalistic, and believe in the future of Iraq. And our job is to work with them.

But the decisionmaking process is very important for our citizens to understand. The decisionmaking process is changing. Bremer comes home, and the new government replaces Ambassador Bremer. And at the same time, we stand up an Embassy that will interface with the new, sovereign Iraqi government.

One of the interesting things I've heard, Terry, from other leaders, "Are you really going to pass full sovereignty?" And the answer is, yes, we're going to pass full sovereignty. And the Iraqi government will need the help of a lot of people, and we're willing to be a participant in helping them get to the elections.

And Terry asked whether there will be more violence. I think there will be. You know, I hate to predict violence, but I just understand the nature of the killers. This guy, Zarqawi, an Al Qaida associate—who was in Baghdad, by the way, prior to the removal of Saddam Hussein—is still at large in Iraq. And as you might remember, part of his operational plan was to sow violence

and discord amongst the various groups in Iraq by coldblooded killing. And we need to help find Zarqawi so that the people of Iraq can have a more bright—bright future.

The other thing we've got to do is work on reconstruction, to help rebuild parts of that country that suffered mightily under Saddam and are being, you know—parts of which are being destroyed by these terrorists.

Plante [Bill Plante, CBS News].

U.S. Troops and Command Structure in Iraq

Q. Mr. President, if the decisionmaking is now fully in the hands of the Iraqis, will that extend to them asking us to leave, pull out U.S. troops? And will you accede to that if they ask?

The President. Well, Mr. Alawi said today the troops need to be there. And so——

Q. But all of them?

The President. Well, whatever it takes to get the mission done, and we look forward to working with the Iraq Prime Minister and the Iraq Defense Minister to help secure the country. As you know, circumstances change on the ground, and I've told the American people and our commanders that we'll be flexible, and we'll meet those circumstances as they arise.

And what is important for the American people to know is that if a troop is in harm's way, that troop—the chain of command of that troop will be to a U.S. military commander. In terms of the strategy as to how to help Iraq become secure enough to have free elections, we'll work closely with the new Iraqi government to achieve those objectives. There may be times when the Iraqis say, "We can handle this ourselves. Get out of the way. We're plenty capable of moving into secure a town or to secure a situation." And there may be times when they say, "You know, we've got our hands full. Why don't you join us in an operation." And we will collaborate closely with the new defense ministry.

It's a change of attitude in Iraq, in that they now have got the decisionmaking capabilities. Mr. Alawi today, I repeat, stood up in front of the world and said two things that caught my attention. One, he thanked America, and I appreciated that a lot. And I think the American people needed to hear that, that in the new leader there is this understanding and appreciation for the sacrifices that our country has been through. And he also said, "We look forward to working with the coalition and forces to help secure the country."

Stevenson [Richard Stevenson, New York Times].

Q. Given the perception——

The President. I'm converting this into a full-blown press conference. It's such a beautiful day. [*Laughter*] Do I get credit for it? [*Laughter*]

Q. Absolutely.

The President. Okay, good.

Confidence in Iraqi Interim Government

Q. Given the perception out there, especially in Iraq and among some at the U.N. that Brahimi was strong-armed, are you confident that this new interim government has enough legitimacy within Iraq to hold together all the various factions there that threaten to go at each other's throats?

The President. No, I think that's a—listen, yes, I am confident. But time will tell whether or not the leaders turn out to be as capable and strong as Mr. Brahimi thinks they will be.

One of the things I think, Richard, that will keep the country intact is the—is this notion of free elections. I mean, it appears to me that one of the things that does unite the Iraqi people is the deep desire to be able to elect their government. And as we head toward free elections, I think it will make it easier for the interim government to do their job.

Eddie [Ed Chen, Los Angeles Times].

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President——

The President. Yes, Ed, I'm anxiously awaiting.

Q. I'd like ask you about your goals for this—your trip coming up later this week to Europe, vis-a-vis your plan on the Middle East peace initiative. What do you hope in a concrete way to bring home?

The President. I'm giving a speech at the Air Force Academy that will help answer your question.

Q. I won't be there. [*Laughter*]

The President. Ed, they do have C–SPAN, you know. [*Laughter*] I'll be glad to rent it for you for an hour. [*Laughter*]

I'm going to talk about the war on terror, the clash of ideology. Part of winning the war on terror is to spread freedom and democracy in the Middle East. The speech will help set up the types of conversations I will continue to have overseas and at Sea Island, Georgia, which is the need for us to understand that democracy can take hold in the Middle East.

It's important for our partners to understand that I don't view it as American democracy, nor do I think it's going to happen overnight. I will remind them that the Articles of Confederation was a rather bumpy period for American democracy. And so we're talking about reform in their image but reform at the insistence and help—with the help of the free world.

And I think it's possible and I know it's necessary that we work toward democracy in the Middle East, because a society that is not free and not democratic is a society that's likely to breed resentment and anger and, therefore, a society that is—makes the recruitment of young terrorists more likely.

And that's what—and so the idea is to find common spirit in our willingness to work in a variety of ways in the greater Middle East to achieve democratic societies, to work with reformers, to work on education processes that teach people to read and write and add and subtract, not to hate, and always reminding people that the war on terror is not a war against a particular religion and that the war on terror is not a war against a particular civilization. It's a war against people who have got this perverted vision about what the world should look like.

And at my Air Force Academy speech, which you won't be at, I'll remind people that part of their objective is to drive the United States from a country—countries in the Middle East so that they can flow their hatred into a vacuum. And it's very important that we not retreat but not only stay the ground but also work toward democratic institutions and reform.

Yes, sir.

Coalition Security Arrangement With Iraqi Interim Government

Q. Mr. President, are you confident this interim government wants U.S. troops to stay, at least for the short term?

The President. I am confident, yes, sir. And I am confident because of the remarks of Mr. Alawi, and I am told by people on the ground there that they feel—that they, the Iraqis, feel comfortable in asking for us to stay so that we can help provide the security.

Listen, the Iraqis I have talked to are the first to say that the security situation must be improved. And they recognize that there is a lot of work between now and the election in order to improve the security situation, starting with making sure the chain of command within the Iraqi army and the civilian forces and the police forces is strong and linked, as well as to make sure that these Iraqi forces are equipped and properly trained.

As I said in the statement last Monday, a week ago yesterday, that we saw that there were some weaknesses on the ground in Iraq when the heat got on. Some didn't stand up and do their duty. And we're addressing those weaknesses now, and it's going to take time to fully address them.

But there is a deep desire by the Iraqis, don't get me wrong, to run their own affairs and to be in a position where they can handle their own security measures. And I think they will be in that position, but I know that they're not going to ask us to depart until they're comfortable in that position. And Mr. Alawi—again, I referred to his statements today. I thought they were good, strong statements.

Yes.

Ahmad Chalabi/Situation in Iraq

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. Chalabi is an Iraqi leader that's fallen out of favor within your administration. I'm wondering if you feel that he provided any false information, or are you particularly——

The President. Chalabi?

Q. Yes, with Chalabi.

The President. My meetings with him were very brief. I mean, I think I met with him at the State of the Union and just kind

of working through the ropeline, and he might have come with a group of leaders. But I haven't had any extensive conversations with him.

Mr. Brahimi made the decision on Chalabi, not the United States. Mr. Brahimi was the person that put together the group. And I haven't spoken to him or anybody on the ground as to why Chalabi wasn't taken.

In terms of information——

Q. I guess I'm asking, do you feel like he misled your administration in terms of what the expectations were going to be going into Iraq?

The President. I don't remember anybody walking into my office saying Chalabi says this is the way it's going to be in Iraq.

Let me step back there and remind you that going into Iraq, we had some—we had a belief that certain things—that we had to plan for certain courses of action, one, that the oil production, the Iraqi oil production, would be disrupted through sabotage or Saddam's own whims. And it didn't happen. We also thought there would be major refugee flows, and that didn't happen, or a lot of hunger, and it didn't happen.

What did happen was, as a result of us storming through the country, many of Saddam's elite guard kind of saw what was happening, laid down—well, didn't lay down their arms—stored their arms and hid and then regrouped. As well as what happened was is that some of the foreign fighters there were encouraged and bolstered by a foreign fighter that had been there during the period, Mr. Zarqawi. And it's been tough, tough fighting. I fully recognize that.

However, I just want to remind you that the mission of the enemy is to get us to retreat from Iraq, is to say, "Well, it's been tough enough, now it's time to go home," which we are not going to do. We will stand with this Iraqi government.

Today the reason I'm out here is because this is a major step toward the emergence of a free Iraq. This is a very hopeful day for the Iraqi people and a hopeful day for the American people, because the American people want to see a free Iraq as well. They understand what I know: A free Iraq in the heart of the Middle East is going to be a game-changer, an agent of change. It's going to send a clear signal that the terrorists can't win and that a free society is a better way to lift the hopes and aspirations of the average person.

Yes, Holly [Holly Rosenkrantz, Bloomberg News].

Energy

Q. So far, sir, Congress hasn't responded to your call to do anything about rising oil prices. I mean, you've already said you want them to pass your energy bill, and they aren't. So what are you——

The President. Yes, so go ask Congress why they haven't passed the energy bill. And I'll repeat it again: Congress, pass the energy bill.

Q. But what more can you do as prices rise?

The President. I can continue calling upon Congress to pass the energy bill and to make sure the American consumers are being treated fairly. But what you're seeing at the gas pumps is something I've been warning for 2 years, and that is that we're hooked on foreign sources of energy and that if we don't become less dependent on foreign sources of energy, we will find higher prices at our gas pumps. It's precisely what happened.

Had we drilled in ANWR back in the mid-nineties, we'd be producing an additional million barrels a day, which would be taking enormous pressure off the American consumer.

Yes, ma'am.

Possibility of Visits to Iraq and Afghanistan

Q. Mr. President, you were saying that the United States wants to stand with Iraqi people. Would you like to go to Iraq before the end of the year and stand with the interim government and——

The President. I would like to, but I'm not so sure that would be wise yet.

Q. It's not secure?

The President. Well, I don't know. You're asking me to project 6 months down the road and—5 months down the road. And that's the classic hypothetical: Will Iraq be secure enough for me to go to Iraq? I would hope

it would be. And if it is, then whether or not I can go is another question.

Q. Would you like to go, though?

The President. I'd love to go back to Iraq at some point in time. I really would. I'd like to be able to stand up and say, "Let me tell you something about America. America is a land that's willing to sacrifice on your behalf. We sent our sons and daughters here so you can be free. And not only that, we are a compassionate country. We want to help you rebuild your schools and your hospitals." I'd like to do that. I really would.

I'd like to also go to Afghanistan. And by the way, the reports from Afghanistan, at least the ones I get, are very encouraging. You know, we've got—people who have been there last year and have been back this year report a different attitude. And they report people have got a sparkle in their eye and women now all of a sudden no longer fear the future but believe that we're there to stay the course and we will help a free society emerge—both of which, a free society and a free Afghanistan, are very important to a future, a future world that is peaceful, because freedom is the bulwark of the value system inculcated in those countries.

Yes. Yes, you, Dallas Morning News, Hillman [G. Robert Hillman].

Proposed U.N. Security Council Resolution on Iraq

Q. How close are you to an agreement with the United Nations for a new resolution on Iraq?

The President. Well, I think our negotiator, the Secretary of State, feels we're making good progress.

Q. A week? Two weeks?

The President. I don't know, Hillman. That's like saying, "Can I go to Iraq in 5 months?" Please. I thought I set the tone for hypotheticals. I don't know what it is.

But as soon as possible—I'd like to get it done tomorrow, if possible. And so we're working with all the parties. But you know how the United Nations is. Sometimes it can move slowly, and sometimes it can move quickly, and the quicker the better as far as I'm concerned, because it sends a message to the new Iraqi government: The world stands with you.

Yes, sir. Only one question per major paper. Nice try. [*Laughter*]

International Support for Iraqi Transition

Q. You're about to have a series of meetings with foreign leaders in which Iraq certainly will loom very large. You ruled out, a moment ago, when you said you don't expect a major commitment of troops to come out of those meetings.

The President. Right.

Q. What, realistically, do you expect to come out of these meetings regarding——

The President. A commitment to work together, a commitment that we all understand the importance of succeeding in Iraq, an understanding that terrorism will flourish and be emboldened if we're not successful in promoting a free government in Iraq, and a—and I think, from my conversations, people understand that. But it will give us a chance to sit in the same room and talk about that. And that's an important commitment.

In other words, once you get that in your mind, that a free Iraq is important for world security, then it makes it easier for us to work together on certain matters. And look, we're still getting beyond the period where we had disagreements about Iraq. And now there's common ground, that a free Iraq is essential to our respective securities and, more important, is a very important signal to people in the Middle East that it's possible to live in a free society. And that's an important message as well.

It's important for the Iranian freedom—those who love freedom in Iran to see. I mean, listen, a free Iraq on the border of Iran is going to send a very clear signal to those who want to be free that a free society is very possible. It's a hopeful period.

And I'm so appreciative of the United Nations and Mr. Brahimi's work. It's hard work in Baghdad to do what he did. He did a lot of good work and came up with what looks like a very strong government.

Deans [Bob Deans, Cox Newspapers], fine looking suit—the white's back. So are the bucks. [*Laughter*]

Proposed U.N. Security Council Resolution on Iraq/Upcoming G–8 and NATO Summits

Q. Thank you, sir. Mr. President, there have been several questions about this tightly sequenced statesmanship you have coming up in the next several weeks. I'm wondering if you can say, first, do you expect—how soon do you think representatives of this interim government will actually go to the U.N. Security Council and plead their case for a resolution?

The President. Right.

Q. And two, do you expect to use the G–8—do you have the—will the resolution be on the agenda there at the G–8? And where do you think you'll be by the time we get to Istanbul?

The President. Yes. I would hope that the new government sends somebody to New York soon. As a matter of fact, I don't think you're going to see much on the resolution, to answer your question, Bob, until the Iraqis come and make their case about why a resolution is needed. And I would like to see that person come as quickly as possible.

We are going to have leaders from the greater Middle East in Sea Island. And as to whether or not a member of the new government shows up in Sea Island from Iraq, I just don't know. But we will talk about Iraq. We'll talk about Iraq in the context of the spread of democracy. And the countries that will be there will be sharing their experiences with democratic institutions in the Muslim world. And that will also serve as a reminder to the people of Iraq that they can succeed.

In terms of NATO, obviously we'll be discussing Iraq at NATO. Again, I don't expect any additional troop commitments out of NATO. I do expect there to be continuing NATO interest in Iraq. As you know, NATO has provided a headquarters for—or support for the Polish multinational division—Polish-led multinational division. But we'll also make sure that we continue to focus NATO on Afghanistan. A peaceful and free Afghanistan is essential to the—to our mission, to our objectives of encouraging the spread of democracy.

President Karzai, who I believe is coming soon—and will be at Sea Island, by the way—another good example of someone who has assumed responsibility in a country that had been savaged by barbaric leadership, is doing a fine job. And he will be able to help people understand how to ask for help as well as what help is available. He's—I am very impressed by him and impressed by his leadership.

Last question.

Peace Efforts in Sudan

Q. Mr. President——

Q. Mr. President, could you speak about Sudan, the peace agreement in Sudan and how that nation has turned away from terrorism?

The President. Yes, I appreciate that. The question is on Sudan. Recently, there was a signature on a document that took us a step closer toward achieving our objective. However, it is very important for the Sudanese Government to understand we're watching very carefully the hunger, the brutal human conditions in the western part of their country and that we expect there to be an accommodation to the relief agencies as well as the American Government to get aid to those people. We're closer to an agreement in Sudan. It's a very important agreement. And we will continue to work the issue really hard.

Situation in Iraq

Q. Mr. President, can I ask about one of the things that the new Prime Minister in Iraq has said about your administration? He has said that many of the postwar problems in Iraq have been from lack of proper planning and that America bears direct responsibility for that. How do you answer that?

The President. I would answer him that we had a plan in place, we succeeded in making sure that the oil flow continues so that he as Prime Minister has now got roughly 2.5 million barrels a day of Iraqi oil for the benefit of the Iraqi people, that there wasn't major disruptions of food so that people didn't starve. In other words, we were very successful in certain things.

But there is no question that the security situation on the ground is hard and tough. And my comment to him is we will be flexible and wise and work with him to continue to secure Iraq, that our mission is his mission,

which is to get to elections so the country can be a free country.

Again, I think it's instructive that Mr. Brahimi picked leaders who are willing to speak their mind, which is fine with me. I fully understand a leader willing to speak their mind. I kind of like doing it myself, you know. And all the new Prime Minister needs to know is that I look forward to a close relationship with him, to do what's best for the Iraqi people. That's our interest. Our interest is a free Iraq. It's in their interest, and it's in the world's interest. And it's something—these are historic times. And I am pleased with the progress, the political progress being made today, and vow to the people of Iraq that we will finish the mission. We will do our job. And we expect them to do their job, and we'll work with them to do so.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:30 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations and Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; L. Paul Bremer III, Presidential Envoy to Iraq; Robert D. Blackwill, Deputy Assistant to the President and Coordinator for Strategic Planning to the National Security Adviser; Defense Minister Hazem Sha'alan of the new Iraqi interim government; Iraqi Governing Council Member Ahmad Chalabi; and President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Federal Expenditures for Climate Change Programs and Activities

June 1, 2004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Consistent with division D, title V, section 555(b) of Public Law 108–199, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004, I transmit herewith an account prepared by my Administration of Federal expenditures for climate change programs and activities. This report includes both domestic and international programs and activities related to climate change, and associated expenditures by line item as presented in the FY 2005 President's Budget Appendix.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Ted Stevens, chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, House Committee on Appropriations.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting Designations Under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Act

June 1, 2004

Dear _____ *:*

I transmit herewith my designation of the following eight foreign persons and two foreign entities as appropriate for sanctions under section 804(b) of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act, 21 U.S.C. 1901–1908, and report my direction of sanctions against them under that Act:

Arellano Felix Organization
Eduardo Ramon Arellano Felix
Francisco Javier Arellano Felix
Carrillo Fuentes Organization
Armando Valencia Cornelio
Norris Nembhard
Leebert Ramcharan
Fernando Melciades Zevallos Gonzales
Iqbal Mirchi
Haji Bashir Noorzai

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Richard G. Lugar, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; John W. Warner, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Charles E. Grassley, chairman, Senate Committee on Finance; Pat Roberts, chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; Orrin G. Hatch, chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, House Committee on International Relations; Duncan Hunter, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services; Christopher Cox, chairman, House Select Committee on Homeland Security; Porter J. Goss, chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary; and William M. Thomas, chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means.

Remarks at a Victory 2004 Reception in Denver, Colorado

June 1, 2004

Thank you all. Thanks for coming. I appreciate you all being here. I want to thank you all for coming tonight. What we have done is we have made sure we're going to carry Colorado again. I love coming to this State. It's a State where the cowboy hats outnumber the ties. It's great to be here, and I cannot tell you how grateful I am that you all have taken time to come by to say hello.

I bring greetings from First Lady Laura Bush. She is a fabulous First Lady, and she is a wonderful wife. I was a lucky guy when she said yes. There I was on bended knee in Midland, Texas. I said, "Would you marry me?" She said, "Just so long as you don't get into politics." [*Laughter*] She is—she's come to realize what I know, that in this job you can do things to help influence people's lives in such a positive way. She speaks clearly about literacy. She's got a passion for helping people learn to read.

I'll never forget the time she did the radio address, the Presidential radio address, and she spoke to the hopes and aspirations of the women in Afghanistan. And the feedback she got was such incredibly positive feedback. People said—people from that desperate part of the world sent word back that they so appreciated the fact that Laura lifted their souls and sights and spirits with just some kind and gentle words. I think there's a lot of reasons you need to put me back in office, but perhaps the most important is so that Laura can be the First Lady for 4 more years.

I look forward to working with the Vice President for 4 more years. I'm very proud of the job that Dick Cheney has done. He's steady. He's strong. He's reliable. He is an excellent Vice President. I used to say he's the best Vice President we ever had, until one day Mother yelled out, "Wait a minute, buster." [*Laughter*] But he's a good, solid friend and a good man.

I really appreciate Governor Owens. He's one of the most articulate spokesmen for compassionate conservatism in the country. I'm proud to call him friend. I'm proud that Frances is here along with him. I appreciate your service, Governor, and thank you very much for what you've done for the State.

I want to thank Benson—Bruce Benson. I knew he would amount to something one of these days. [*Laughter*] Thank you very much for leading this effort, Bruce. You and Marcy have been longtime friends, and I appreciate that. You know, in this line of work, if you can't count on your friends, it's going to be an empty journey. And the Bensons have been long-time friends, for which I'm grateful.

I want to thank my friend Mercer Reynolds from Cincinnati, Ohio, who has been in charge of the Bush-Cheney fundraising effort and is now in charge of raising money for the Victory committees. Victory committees mean that we're going to have a little water in the bucket to water the grassroots, to turn out the vote. And for those of you who are what they call grassroots activists, I want to thank you for what you're fixing to do, which is to put up the signs, find the voters, and turn them out—find out who they are and say, "You owe it to our country to participate in democracy."

And don't be afraid to talk to discerning Democrats and independents too, because we've got a good, positive message. We've got something that lifts—our message lifts the spirits of this country. First, when you're convincing them, remind them that this administration has confronted serious challenges. We—when we came to office, the stock market was in decline and the economy was headed into recession. But we acted. We delivered historic tax relief. And over the past year, this economy of ours is the fastest growing of any industrialized—major industrialized nation in the world.

We uncovered corporate crimes. Those corporate crimes affected the American people. And we worked with Congress to pass tough laws—I mean, tough laws—and made it abundantly clear we're not going to tolerate dishonesty in the boardrooms of America.

We saw war and grief arrive on a September morning, and so we have pursued the terrorist enemy across the world. We have been steadfast and strong in our—doing our duty, which is to protect America. We've captured or killed many of the key leaders of

the Al Qaida network, and I assure you, the rest of them know we're on their trail.

We confronted the dangers of state-sponsored terror and the spread of weapons of mass destruction. We ended two of the most violent and dangerous regimes on Earth. And now, thanks to our brave troops and coalition troops, 50 million people live in freedom.

When we got to Washington, the military was underfunded and not very well appreciated. We anticipated the problem. We worked with Congress to pass robust defense budgets. And today, no one can question the skill or the strength or the spirit of the United States military. And tomorrow I look forward to going to the Air Force Academy to congratulate the newest class of Air Force officers and to thank them on behalf of a grateful nation for the service they're going to render.

See, I hope you can tell that I understand it is the President's job to confront problems, not to pass them on to future Presidents and future generations. This is an important election. The man who sits in the Oval Office will set the course of the war on terror and the direction of the economy. The security and the prosperity of our country are at stake in this election.

And I've got a tough race. I'm looking forward to it—I'm looking forward to it. I'm running against an experienced United States Senator. He has been in Washington long enough to take both sides of just about every issue. [*Laughter*] He voted for the PATRIOT Act, for NAFTA, for the No Child Left Behind Act, and for the use of force in Iraq. Now he opposes the PATRIOT Act, NAFTA, the No Child Left Behind Act, and the liberation of Iraq. He's kind of like the Colorado weather—[*laughter*]—if you don't like it, just wait a few minutes and it will change.

I'm running hard to seek the endorsement of the American people. My opponent claims he's picked up some endorsements as well, from foreign leaders. [*Laughter*] He just won't tell us who they are. [*Laughter*] He was asked this question on TV one time, and he said, "What I said is true"—this is what my opponent said—he said, "What I said is true. I mean, you can go to New York City, and you can be in a restaurant, and you can meet a foreign leader." I think this whole thing is a—[*laughter*]—is a case of mistaken identity. [*Laughter*] Just because somebody has an accent—[*laughter*]—a nice suit, or a good table at a fancy New York restaurant does not make them a foreign leader. Foreign leaders will not be deciding this election. Fortunately, the American people will be deciding this election, and we are going to win 4 more years.

The voters will have a unmistakable choice in the campaign. I mean, it's a clear choice. It's a choice between keeping the tax relief that's moving this economy forward or putting the burden of higher taxes back on the American people. It's a choice between an America that leads the world with strength and confidence or an America that is uncertain in the face of danger.

I look forward to the debate. I look forward to laying out exactly where I want to lead this Nation. I've got a clear vision of how to make sure this economy continues to grow and for people to be able to realize their dreams. I know exactly what we need to do to win the war on terror and to bring freedom and peace to the world.

I look forward to debating the issue of taxes. It's a big issue for every American family. With the largest tax relief since Ronald Reagan was the President, we have left more money in the hands that earned it. And by spending and investing and helping to create new jobs, the American people have used their money far better than the Federal Government would have.

We've been through recession, corporate scandal, emergencies, and war. And yet, our economy is strong, and it is getting stronger. In April, America added 288,000 new jobs. Manufacturing jobs have increased for 3 straight months. Since August, the economy has added 1.1 million new jobs. The first quarter of 2004, the economy grew at a rate of 4.4 percent. Over the past year, economic growth has been the fastest in nearly 20 years. Business investment is up. Inflation is low. Mortgage rates are down. More people own a home in America than ever before. The economy is strong. It is getting stronger. The tax relief we passed is working.

And there is a big difference in this campaign when it comes to taxes. I want you to remind your friends and neighbors, Republican and Democrat and independent, that

when we passed the child credit to help families, my opponent voted against it. When we increased the child credit to help families, he voted against it. When we reduced the marriage penalty, he voted against it. When we created a lower 10-percent rate for working families, he voted against it. When we reduced the tax rate on dividends that helps a lot of America's seniors, he voted "no." When we passed tax relief to help small businesses, he voted "no." I think we see a pattern here. It's a lot easier to get a "yes" vote out of him as a United States Senator when it comes to raising taxes. You make sure your friends and neighbors understand that as a United States Senator, he voted over 350 times for higher taxes on the American people.

We're now in the middle—we're now in the beginning of a campaign, and my opponent, thus far, has proposed $1.9 trillion of new spending at last count. And we really haven't gotten into the main thrust of the campaign. He said he's going to pay for it by taxing the rich. You can't raise enough money from the so-called rich in order to pay for all these new spending promises. There is a tax gap. And given his record, I know how he's going to fill the tax gap. He's going to have to tax the working people of the United States. But the good news is, he's not going to have that opportunity.

It is very important for our citizens to understand that higher taxes will destroy economic growth. The American people will reject higher taxes. They're going to reelect a pro-growth, pro-entrepreneur, pro-small-businessowner President, George W. Bush.

This campaign really is going to be a debate about who understands how to make sure America has the best economy in the world by making sure we're the best place to do business in the world. In order for people to find work, this has to be a good place to do business, a place that's competitive with other countries around the world.

First, we've got to have spending discipline in Washington, DC. I look forward to working with the Congress to hold the line on spending the people's money. We've got to have—make sure that our country has got reasonable tort reform. There's too many junk and frivolous lawsuits that make it difficult for people to expand the job base.

We've got to work to control the cost of health care through health savings accounts and association health care plans as well as medical liability reform at the Federal level. People in this country have got to understand that these lawsuits against our docs are running docs out of business and running up the cost of medicine.

I've been—in order to make sure we're competitive, in order to make sure people can find work in this country, we need an energy policy. I've been calling upon the United States Congress to pass an energy plan for nearly 2 years, but they haven't listened. And now, people are going to the pump and finding out what I was talking about. We are too dependent on foreign sources of oil. Of course we need to encourage conservation and develop alternative sources of energy. But for the sake of national security and economic security, we need to be finding natural gas and crude oil right here at home, in environmentally friendly ways.

We need to reject economic isolationism and be confident in our ability to compete around the world. There's some who want to shut down markets. Not me—I want to open markets. I know we're good at things. We're good at growing things. We're good at building things. Just give us a chance to compete on a level playing field, and we can out-compete anybody, anytime, anywhere in the world.

I look forward to the debate on how to make sure this country stays competitive so people can find work. We've got the right philosophy in this campaign: The role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish.

The future of this country also depends on this Nation's leadership in the world. The momentum of freedom is strong, but we still face serious dangers. Al Qaida is wounded; Al Qaida is not broken. Terrorists are testing our will in Afghanistan and Iraq. Regimes in North Korea and Iran challenge the peace. If America shows weakness or uncertainty in this decade, the world will drift toward tragedy. This is not going to happen on my watch.

We are strong, and we are confident in the cause of freedom. We know that freedom is not America's gift to the world but the Almighty's gift to every person in this world. Today, nobody doubts the word of the United States of America, and the world is more peaceful for it.

America and our allies gave an ultimatum to the terror regime in Afghanistan. The Taliban chose defiance; the Taliban is no longer in power. America and our allies gave an ultimatum to the terror regime in Iraq. The dictator chose defiance; the dictator sits in a prison cell. September the 11th, 2001, taught a lesson this Nation must never forget: We must confront threats before they fully materialize.

In Iraq, my administration looked at the intelligence, and we saw a threat. Members of Congress looked at the intelligence, and they saw a threat. The United Nations Security Council looked at the intelligence, and it saw a threat. The previous administration and previous Congress looked at the same intelligence and made regime change in Iraq the policy of our country.

In 2002, the U.N. Security Council yet again demanded a full accounting of Saddam Hussein's weapons programs. They were worried about Saddam Hussein. I was worried about Saddam Hussein. After all, he had attacked countries in his neighborhood. He had terrorist ties. Zarqawi, who's now running loose in Iraq, was in Baghdad prior to our arrival. He had funded terrorist activities. He paid suiciders to kill—the families of suiciders who killed innocent Israelis. He had used weapons of mass destruction on his own people. The world spoke and said, "Disarm." And as he had for over a decade, he refused to comply. So I had a choice to make: either to take the word of a madman or to defend the security of this country. And given that choice, I will defend America every time.

My opponent admits that Saddam was a threat. He just didn't support my decision to remove him from power. Maybe he was hoping Saddam would lose the next election. [*Laughter*] We showed the dictator and a watching world that America means what it says. Because we acted, because our coalition acted, Saddam's torture chambers are closed. Because we acted, Iraq's weapons programs are ended forever. Because we acted, nations like Libya have gotten the message and renounced their own weapons programs. Because we acted, an example of democracy is rising at the heart of the Middle East. Because we acted, the world is more free and America is more secure.

The work in Iraq has been hard. It's been tough. We've—we faced the changing conditions of war. And that has required perseverance and sacrifice and the ability to adapt. Instead of being killed or captured on the battlefield, some elements of Saddam's repressive regime and secret police were able to escape, and they have since reorganized, and they've adopted sophisticated terrorist tactics. That's what you're seeing.

They've linked up with foreign fighters. I mentioned the guy Zarqawi. He's an Al Qaida associate. He's a coldblooded killer. He and these others are trying to sow chaos by killing innocent people. They're trying to shake our will. They're trying to frighten the Iraqis. They don't know this country, obviously. America will never be intimidated by thugs and assassins.

We will honor our duty to those who've fallen on the battlefield, to complete the mission. We will honor our word to the Iraqi people when we say we'll stand with them as a free society emerges. This is an historic times. This is a great moment in history. As a free country emerges, it serves as an example in a part of the world that's so desperate for freedom, a part of the world where people are angry and hostile because they don't have any hope.

The world will see that free societies are peaceful societies. And the Middle East will see that free societies are societies that meet the aspirations and hopes of moms and dads who yearn for the same thing we yearn for: a child to be educated, their child to have a chance at realizing a dream. These aren't easy tasks, I know that. I've asked a lot of this country, and I've asked a lot of our coalition. But they are essential tasks. They're necessary tasks. We will finish what we have begun, and we will win this essential victory in the war on terror.

I look forward to the debate on national security. Americans have a clear choice. My opponent says he approves of bold action in

the world, but only if other countries do not object. I'm all for united action—so are the over 30 countries that are working with us in Iraq today. But I will never turn over America's national security decision to leaders of other countries.

And we have another disagreement that I look forward to debating. My opponent has said the war on terror is far less of a military operation and far more of an intelligence-gathering, law enforcement operation. I disagree. Our Nation followed this approach after the World Trade Center was bombed in 1993. The matter was handled in the courts and thought by some to be settled. But the terrorists were still training in Afghanistan. They were still plotting in other nations, and they were drawing up more ambitious plans.

After the chaos and carnage of September the 11th, it is not enough to serve our enemies with legal papers. The terrorists and their allies declared war on the United States of America, and war is what they got.

And winning this war requires a great military, and a great military requires giving our troops the best training and best equipment in the world. And that's why I went to the Congress last fall and proposed an $87 billion supplemental appropriation. Most of that money went to our troops to make sure they're well-equipped. My opponent voted against the 87 billion. You might remember his answer when they asked him why he voted against it. And here is what he said: "I actually did vote for the $87 billion, before I voted against it." The American President must speak clearly and mean what he says.

Our men and women in the military take great risks on our behalf. And if you've got a loved one in the military, you tell him the Commander in Chief is incredibly proud. And I know you are as well.

The conduct of those people inside that prison was disgraceful, and their action does not represent the true character of the United States military. I have seen the great decency and courage of our troops. And I assure you, ladies and gentlemen, the cause of freedom is in good hands.

This Nation is strong, and it is prosperous. Yet, we need to remember, our greatest strength is in the hearts and souls of our citizens. We're strong because of the values we try to live by: courage and compassion, reverence and integrity. We're strong because of the institutions that help give us direction: our families, our schools, and our religious congregations. These values and institutions are fundamental to our lives, and they deserve the respect of the Government.

We stand for the fair treatment of faith-based groups so they can receive Federal support for their works of healing and compassion. We stand for welfare reforms that require work and strengthen marriage, which have helped millions of Americans find independence and dignity. We stand for a culture of life in which every person counts and every person matters. We stand for institutions defended by judges who strictly and faithfully interpret the law.

We stand for a culture of responsibility in America. The culture of this country is changing from one that has said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture in which each of us understands we're responsible for the decisions we make in life. If you're fortunate enough to be a mother or a father—if you're fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your child with all your heart. If you're worried about the quality of the education in the community in which you live, you're responsible for doing something about it. If you're a CEO in corporate America, you're responsible for telling the truth to your shareholders and your employees. And in a responsibility society, each of us is responsible for loving our neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourself.

You know, for all our country, these years in our history will always stand apart. There are quiet times in the life of a nation when little is expected of its leaders. These aren't one of those times. You and I are living in a period when the stakes are high and the challenges are difficult, a time when firm resolve is needed.

I know none of us will ever forget the week when one era ended and another began. On September the 14th, 2001, I stood in the ruins of the Twin Towers. It was a day I'll never forget. I remember people in hardhats shouting at me, "Whatever it takes." People

were kind of grabbing me as I was walking by and say, "Don't let me down."

As we did that day, and as I'm sure you did, and I know those men and women felt, we were—we took it personally. I took it personally. I will never relent in bringing justice to our enemies. I will defend the security of America, whatever it takes.

And during these tough times, I have also seen the character of this country. You know, it wasn't so long ago people had doubts about America. They had doubts about our character. They had doubts about our capacity to meet a serious challenge or to serve something greater than self-interest. But Americans gave their answer loud and clear. I've seen the unselfish courage of our troops. I've seen the heroism of Americans in the face of danger. I've seen the spirit of service and compassion renewed in our country. I saw America, just like you did, unite when it mattered most.

We're going to need all these qualities for the work ahead. We have a war to win. The world is counting on our country to lead the cause of freedom and peace. We have a duty to spread opportunity to every corner of America. This is the work that history has set before us. We welcome it. And we know that for our great land, the best days lie ahead.

May God bless you all. Thanks for coming. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:45 p.m. at the Lawrence C. Phipps Memorial Conference Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Bill Owens of Colorado and his wife, Frances; Bruce D. Benson, Victory 2004 Colorado finance chairman, and his wife, Marcy; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Interview With RAI Television

June 1, 2004

Europe-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, it will be in a few days the anniversary of the D-day. Italy and Europe are grateful to the United States for the liberation from fascism and the nazism. But today, Europe and America are still divided about Iraq. When you go in Europe, there will certainly be some demonstration against you. What is the responsibility of this situation?

The President. Yes, look, first of all, we share the same values—we being America and Europe. And one of the values we share is the freedom for people to express themselves. So I have no problem with people saying, "I disagree." Matter of fact, I think it's a healthy sign, and I think it's positive.

Secondly, there are—there is common agreement that Iraq must be free and peaceful. We had disagreements about the decision to enforce the U.N. Security Council resolution, but there's common agreement in Europe with America that it's in the world's interest that Iraq be free and peaceful. Today I just talked to the new Prime Minister and had a very good conversation with him. And he said, "Thank you for giving us a chance, and thank you for standing with us." And when he said thank you, he wasn't talking just to me. He was talking to the Italian people and the American people and the Brits and all the people in our coalition that are now helping in Iraq.

So I'm very upbeat and very—as I head over to honor what happened 60 years ago, I think we're now seeing unity to work toward common good today. And I'm looking forward to it.

Proposed U.N. Security Council Resolution/Situation in Iraq

Q. Yes, but some Europeans blame you for having kept them out of the decision to go to the war in Iraq.

The President. Yes.

Q. Do you think this is the real reason for present difficulties?

The President. Well, first of all, I don't see many difficulties. You mean in Iraq?

Q. In Iraq.

The President. Oh, in Iraq.

Q. And at the U.N. as well.

The President. Well, I think you'll see——

Q. The ground and the——

The President. Yes. No, I think you'll see in the U.N. there's going to be common agreement. I think we'll get a new Security Council resolution. Remember, 1441—at the Security Council, we voted unanimously to

say to Saddam Hussein, "Disarm, or face serious consequences." Then it became clear he didn't disarm and didn't disclose, and so we had a debate about the definition of serious consequences.

My attitude is, when you say something, you better do it. In other words, the world said, "Serious consequences, Mr. Hussein." And had there not been serious consequences, I think he would have been extremely dangerous, and the United Nations would have been viewed as very weak.

And so, the United States, along with a lot of other nations, agreed that we must enforce serious consequences. But everybody had a chance to participate. Everybody had a chance, particularly on the Security Council, to say yes or no. But that is now behind us, and that's what is important for the people of your great country to understand. There is a better day ahead.

Now, in terms of Iraq, it's tough. And the reason it's tough is because there are killers in that country who want to stop the march to freedom. The worst thing they fear is free elections, but they're not going to stop us. That's what you've got to understand. We are not going to be intimidated by killers in Iraq or anywhere else, for that matter.

Q. Some have said that you never admit to any shortcomings, much less failures. Looking back at the past year, do you have anything to reproach yourself regarding what has gone wrong? Did you make any mistakes?

The President. Listen, any time you go to war, circumstances change. And the fundamental question is, were we flexible enough to change with the circumstances? And we have been. Could we—this is all hypothetical, when you think about it. We are changing a country from tyranny to freedom, a country where people were brutalized, tortured, raped, killed, maimed, to a country which is going to govern itself. And it has been hard work.

A lot of things didn't happen that we thought might happen, the oil production, for example. We thought that would be blown up, and it would cost the Iraqi citizens a lot of money. It wasn't. We thought that people would go hungry or there would be mass refugees, neither of which happened.

What did happen is, is that we moved too quickly. Our troops stormed through to Baghdad, and then it caused—it enabled some of the Saddam loyalists, some of them, to disperse. In other words, they didn't stay and fight. They ran off. They regrouped and came back to fight. And I—and our troops were given the flexibility on the ground to deal with that. Now, I wish the Iraqi people had overwhelmingly said, "Thank you for coming." I think they will. But some didn't. Some said, "Let's fight them."

Iraqi Interim Government

Q. But don't you think that now this new government could been seen as a puppet government because there are a lot of elements close to America—America gives them money?

The President. Well, we—look, you're talking about the current Prime Minister.

Q. Yes.

The President. And you bet we supported a group that he headed. We didn't support him. We supported his group. You know why? Because he wanted to get rid of Saddam Hussein, and the reason why he did is not because of America. He wanted to get rid of Saddam Hussein because Saddam Hussein killed and tortured his fellow citizens. You remember what Saddam Hussein is like. He was a tyrant. He was brutal. He had torture rooms. There was mass graves we discovered. I had the other day in the Oval Office seven men whose hands had been cut off by Saddam Hussein.

Q. We have shown this picture.

The President. Have you? Good.

Q. Yes, we have.

The President. A very touching moment.

Q. Are you happy with this new government in Iraq?

The President. I am happy that Mr. Brahimi did what he said he would do. The government was picked by the United Nations. Mr. Brahimi went under very difficult circumstances and consulted with a lot of people and came up with what appears to be a very diverse government.

Now, I have just spoken to the Prime Minister and the new President. And I told them two things: One, thank you for taking on a

very difficult assignment, thank you for leading; and two, America and our coalition will help you succeed, but it's up to you to succeed. You're in charge, and we will work with you to succeed.

Prisoner Abuse at Abu Ghraib Prison/ U.S. Credibility

Q. How much has the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib damaged the American moral authority and credibility?

The President. Yes. Well, that's a very good question. Obviously, it was a shameful moment when we saw on our TV screens that soldiers took it upon themselves to humiliate Iraqi prisoners, because it doesn't reflect the nature of the American people or the nature of the men and women in our uniform. And what the world will see is that we will handle this matter in a very transparent way, that there will be rule of law, which is an important part of any democracy. And there will be transparency, which is a second important part of a democracy, and people who have done wrong will be held to account for the world to see.

That will stand—this process will stand in stark contrast to what would happen under a tyrant. You would never know about the abuses in the first place. And if you did know about the abuses, you certainly wouldn't see any process to correct them.

President's Upcoming Visit With Pope John Paul II

Q. You will visit the Pope as well on June 4th.

The President. Yes, sir.

Q. The Vatican opposed the war and now recommends, look forward and pay more attention to the religious and moral sensitivity of the Iraqi people. What's your opinion about this recommendation?

The President. Well, I can understand. Look, a lot of people didn't like the war. I understand that completely, and I don't like war. But I'm the guy who has to decide, for our case, whether or not a Saddam Hussein would be a threat to peace, and made a very difficult decision. After having tried all diplomacy, war was the last option.

Secondly, I will tell the—His Holy Father I appreciate his positions—he is a great man—and that I look forward to working with the Iraqis to put in place the conditions so that human rights prevail, something that didn't happen under Saddam Hussein, looking forward to the development of a society in which boys and girls can go to schools and not be filled with hateful propaganda but with knowledge. I look forward to working with the health care workers in Iraq so that people can get decent health care. I will assure His Holy Father that we will do everything we can to elevate the human condition so that people can live in peace and freedom and remind him that a free Iraq in the midst of the Middle East will serve as a great moment of change, will serve as an example for others to follow. You see, when the people in the Middle East see that a free society can exist in the Muslim world, they'll demand the same thing. And free societies are peaceful societies. Free societies are hopeful societies. And in the long run, the best way to defeat terror is to promote freedom, and that's what we're going to do.

Q. Last question.

The President. Sure.

Proposed U.N. Security Council Resolution/Future of Iraq

Q. If you cannot succeed with the United Nations, do you have a plan B as an exit strategy in Iraq?

The President. We will succeed—we will succeed with the United Nations.

Q. It's sure?

The President. I'm confident. I'm an optimist. I've talked to most of the leaders on the Security Council. I've talked to the Russians, the Chinese, the Germans, the French, of course the Brits, and I know there is a consensus that we must work together for the good of the Iraqi people. This isn't about America. This is about Iraq and the citizens of Iraq who suffered under tyranny for so long. And now we have a chance to work together to promote a free society in a part of the world, by the way, that is desperate for free societies. And I know we'll succeed. I've got great faith in the future. And having talked to the new leadership—some of the new leadership in Iraq—I can tell you they share that same sense of destiny, the same great hope for their people.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.
The President. Good to see you, sir.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 2:55 p.m. in the Library at the White House for later broadcast. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 2. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Ayad al-Alawi and President Ghazi Ujayl al-Yawr of the Iraqi interim government; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Adviser to the U.N. Secretary-General. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Commencement Address at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado

June 2, 2004

Secretary Roche and General Jumper, General Rosa, Attorney General Ashcroft, Congresswoman Heather Wilson, Air Force Academy graduate 1982, Academy staff and faculty, distinguished guests, officers, cadets, members of the graduating class, and your families: Thanks for the warm welcome. And thanks—thank you for the honor to visit the United States Air Force Academy on your 50th anniversary.

You've worked hard to get to this moment. You survived "Beast," spent 7 months eating your meals at attention, carried boulders from Cathedral Rock, and endured countless hours in Jacks Valley. In 4 years, you've been transformed from "basics" and "smacks"—[*laughter*]—to proud officers and airmen, worthy of the degree and the commission you receive. Congratulations on a great achievement.

Your superintendent has made a positive difference in a short time. I thank him for helping to restore the Academy's tradition of honor, which applies to every man and woman without exception. I thank the superb faculty for your high standards and dedication to preparing Air Force officers. And I thank the parents here today for standing behind your sons and daughters as they step forward to serve America.

This is a week of remembrance for our country. On Saturday we dedicated the World War II Memorial in Washington, in the company of veterans who fought and flew at places like Midway and Iwo Jima and Normandy. This weekend I will go to France for the ceremonies marking the 60th anniversary of D-day, at a place where the fate of millions turned on the courage of thousands. In these events, we recall a time of peril and national unity and individual courage. We honor a generation of Americans who served this country and saved the liberty of the world.

On this day in 1944, General Eisenhower sat down at his headquarters in the English countryside and wrote out a message to the troops who would soon invade Normandy. "Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force," he wrote, "the eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you."

Each of you receiving a commission today in the United States military will also carry the hopes of free people everywhere. As your generation assumes its own duties during a global conflict that will define your careers, you will be called upon to take brave action and serve with honor. In some ways, this struggle we're in is unique. In other ways, it resembles the great clashes of the last century between those who put their trust in tyrants and those who put their trust in liberty. Our goal, the goal of this generation is the same: We will secure our Nation and defend the peace through the forward march of freedom.

Like the Second World War, our present conflict began with a ruthless surprise attack on the United States. We will not forget that treachery, and we will accept nothing less than victory over the enemy.

Like the murderous ideologies of the 20th century, the ideology of terrorism reaches across borders and seeks recruits in every country. So we're fighting these enemies wherever they hide across the Earth.

Like other totalitarian movements, the terrorists seek to impose a grim vision in which dissent is crushed and every man and woman must think and live in colorless conformity. So to the oppressed peoples everywhere, we are offering the great alternative of human liberty.

Like enemies of the past, the terrorists underestimate the strength of free peoples. The

terrorists believe that free societies are essentially corrupt and decadent and with a few hard blows will collapse in weakness and in panic. The enemy has learned that America is strong and determined, because of the steady resolve of our citizens and because of the skill and strength of the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and the United States Air Force.

And like the aggressive ideologies that rose up in the early 1900s, our enemies have clearly and proudly stated their intentions: Here are the words of Al Qaida's self-described military spokesman in Europe, on a tape claiming responsibility for the Madrid bombings. He said, "We choose death, while you choose life. If you do not stop your injustices, more and more blood will flow, and these attacks will seem very small compared to what can occur in what you call terrorism."

Here are the words of another Al Qaida spokesman, Suleiman Abu Gheith. Last year in an article published on an Al Qaida web site, he said, quote, "We have the right to kill 4 million Americans—2 million of them children—and to exile twice as many and wound and cripple hundreds of thousands. Furthermore, it is our right to fight them with chemical and biological weapons."

In all these threats, we hear the echoes of other enemies in other times—that same swagger and demented logic of the fanatic. Like their kind in the past, these murderers have left scars and suffering. And like their kind in the past, they will flame and fail and suffer defeat by free men and women.

The enemies of freedom are opposed by a great and growing alliance. Nations that won the cold war, nations once behind an Iron Curtain, and nations on every continent see this threat clearly. We're cooperating at every level of our military, law enforcement, and intelligence to meet the danger. The war on terror is civilization's fight. And as in the struggles of the last century, civilized nations are waging this fight together.

The terrorists of our day are, in some ways, unlike the enemies of the past. The terrorist ideology has not yet taken control of a great power like Germany or the Soviet Union. And so the terrorists have adopted a strategy different from the gathering of vast and standing armies. They seek instead to demoralize free nations with dramatic acts of murder. They seek to wear down our resolve and will by killing the innocent and spreading fear and anarchy. And they seek weapons of mass destruction so they can threaten or attack even the most powerful nations.

Fighting this kind of enemy is a complex mission that will require all your skill and resourcefulness. Our enemies have no capital or nation-state to defend. They share a vision and operate as a network of dozens of violent extremist groups around the world, striking separately and in concert. Al Qaida is the vanguard of these loosely affiliated groups, and we estimate that over the years many thousands of recruits have passed through its training camps. Al Qaida has been wounded by losing nearly two-thirds of its known leadership and most of its important sanctuaries. Yet many of the terrorists it trained are still active in hidden cells or in other groups. Homegrown extremists incited by Al Qaida's example are at work in many nations.

And since September the 11th, we've seen terrorist violence in an arc from Morocco to Spain to Turkey to Russia to Uzbekistan to Pakistan to India to Thailand to Indonesia. Yet the center of the conflict, the platform for their global expansion, the region they seek to remake in their image is the broader Middle East.

Just as events in Europe determined the outcome of the cold war, events in the Middle East will set the course of our current struggle. If that region is abandoned to dictators and terrorists, it will be a constant source of violence and alarm, exporting killers of increasing destructive power to attack America and other free nations. If that region grows in democracy and prosperity and hope, the terrorist movement will lose its sponsors, lose its recruits, and lose the festering grievances that keep terrorists in business. The stakes of this struggle are high. The security and peace of our country are at stake, and success in this struggle is our only option.

This is the great challenge of our time, the storm in which we fly. History is once again witnessing a great clash. This is not a clash of civilizations. The civilization of Islam, with its humane traditions of learning and tolerance, has no place for this violent sect of killers and aspiring tyrants. This is not a clash

of religions. The faith of Islam teaches moral responsibility that ennobles men and women and forbids the shedding of innocent blood. Instead, this is a clash of political visions.

In the terrorists' vision of the world, the Middle East must fall under the rule of radical governments, moderate Arab states must be overthrown, nonbelievers must be expelled from Muslim lands, and the harshest practice of extremist rule must be universally enforced. In this vision, books are burned; terrorists are sheltered; women are whipped; and children are schooled in hatred and murder and suicide.

Our vision is completely different. We believe that every person has a right to think and pray and live in obedience to God and conscience, not in frightened submission to despots. We believe that societies find their greatness by encouraging the creative gifts of their people, not in controlling their lives and feeding their resentments. And we have confidence that people share this vision of dignity and freedom in every culture because liberty is not the invention of Western culture. Liberty is the deepest need and hope of all humanity. The vast majority of men and women in Muslim societies reject the domination of extremists like Usama bin Laden. They're looking to the world's free nations to support them in their struggle against the violent minority who want to impose a future of darkness across the Middle East. We will not abandon them to the designs of evil men. We will stand with the people of that region as they seek their future in freedom.

We bring more than a vision to this conflict. We bring a strategy that will lead to victory. And that strategy has four commitments:

First, we are using every available tool to dismantle, disrupt, and destroy terrorists and their organizations. With all the skill of our law enforcement, all the stealth of our special forces, and all the global reach of our air power, we will strike the terrorists before they can strike our people. The best way to protect America is to stay on the offensive.

Secondly, we are denying terrorists places of sanctuary or support. The power of terrorists is multiplied when they have safe havens to gather and train recruits. Terrorist havens are found within states that have difficulty controlling areas of their own territory. So we're helping Governments like the Philippines and Kenya to enforce anti-terrorist laws, through information sharing and joint training.

Terrorists also find support and safe haven within outlaw regimes. So I have set a clear doctrine that the sponsors of terror will be held equally accountable for the acts of terrorists. Regimes in Iraq and Afghanistan learned that providing support and sanctuary to terrorists carries with it enormous costs, while Libya has discovered that abandoning the pursuit of weapons of mass murder has opened a better path to relations with the free world.

Terrorists find their ultimate support and sanctuary when they gain control of governments and countries. We saw the terrible harm that terrorists did by taking effective control over the Government of Afghanistan, a terrorist victory that led directly to the attacks of September the 11th. And terrorists have similar designs on Iraq, on Pakistan, on Saudi Arabia, and many other regional governments they regard as illegitimate. We can only imagine the scale of terrorist crimes were they to gain control of states with weapons of mass murder or vast oil revenues. So we will not retreat. We will prevent the emergence of terrorist-controlled states.

Third, we are using all the elements of our national power to deny terrorists the chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons they seek. Because this global threat requires a global response, we are working to strengthen international institutions charged with opposing proliferation. We are working with regional powers and international partners to confront the threats of North Korea and Iran. We have joined with 14 other nations in the Proliferation Security Initiative to interdict—on sea, on land, or in the air—shipments of weapons of mass destruction, components to build those weapons, and the means to deliver them. Our country must never allow mass murderers to gain hold of weapons of mass destruction. We will lead the world and keep unrelenting pressure on the enemy.

Fourth and finally, we are denying the terrorists the ideological victories they seek by working for freedom and reform in the

broader Middle East. Fighting terror is not just a matter of killing or capturing terrorists. To stop the flow of recruits into terrorist movement, young people in the region must see a real and hopeful alternative, a society that rewards their talent and turns their energies to constructive purpose. And here the vision of freedom has great advantages. Terrorists incite young men and women to strap bombs on their bodies and dedicate their deaths to the death of others. Free societies inspire young men and women to work and achieve and dedicate their lives to the life of their country. And in the long run, I have great faith that the appeal of freedom and life is stronger than the lure of hatred and death.

Freedom's advance in the Middle East will have another very practical effect. The terrorist movement feeds on the appearance of inevitability. It claims to rise on the currents of history, using past America withdrawals from Somalia and Beirut to sustain this myth and to gain new followers. The success of free and stable governments in Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere will shatter the myth and discredit the radicals. And as the entire region sees the promise of freedom in its midst, the terrorist ideology will become more and more irrelevant, until that day when it is viewed with contempt or ignored altogether.

For decades, free nations tolerated oppression in the Middle East for the sake of stability. In practice, this approach brought little stability and much oppression. So I have changed this policy. In the short term, we will work with every government in the Middle East dedicated to destroying the terrorist networks. In the longer term, we will expect a higher standard of reform and democracy from our friends in the region. Democracy and reform will make those nations stronger and more stable and make the world more secure by undermining terrorism at it source. Democratic institutions in the Middle East will not grow overnight. In America, they grew over generations. Yet the nations of the Middle East will find, as we have found, the only path to true progress is the path of freedom and justice and democracy.

America is pursuing our forward strategy for freedom in the broader Middle East in many ways. Voices in that region are increasingly demanding reform and democratic change. So we are working with courageous leaders like President Karzai of Afghanistan, who is ushering in a new era of freedom for the Afghan people. We're taking aside reformers who are standing for human rights and political freedom, often at great personal risk. We're encouraging economic opportunity and the rule of law and government reform and the expansion of liberty throughout the region.

And we're working toward the goal of a Palestinian state living side by side with Israel in peace. Prime Minister Sharon's plan to remove all settlements from Gaza and several from the West Bank is a courageous step toward peace. His decision provides an historic moment of opportunity to begin building a future Palestinian state. This initiative can stimulate progress toward peace by setting the parties back on the roadmap, the most reliable guide to ending the occupation that began in 1967. This success will require reform-minded Palestinians to step forward and lead and meet their roadmap obligations. And the United States of America stands ready to help those dedicated to peace, those willing to fight violence, find a new state so we can realize peace in the greater Middle East.

Some who call themselves realists question whether the spread of democracy in the Middle East should be any concern of ours. But the realists in this case have lost contact with a fundamental reality. America has always been less secure when freedom is in retreat. America is always more secure when freedom is on the march.

All our commitments in the Middle East—all of the four commitments of our strategy—are now being tested in Iraq. We have removed a state sponsor of terror with a history of using weapons of mass destruction. And the whole world is better off with Saddam Hussein sitting in a prison cell. We now face Al Qaida associates like the terrorist Zarqawi, who seek to hijack the future of that nation. We are fighting enemies who want us to retreat and leave Iraq to tyranny so they can claim an ideological victory over America. They would use that victory to gather new strength and take their violence directly to

America and to our friends. Yet our coalition is determined, and the Iraqi people have made clear: Iraq will remain in the camp of free nations.

The Iraqi people are moving forward in clear, steady steps, with our support, to achieve democracy. Iraq now has a designated Prime Minister, Ayad al-Alwai, a respected Iraqi patriot once targeted by Saddam Hussein's assassins. I spoke with the Prime Minister yesterday. He recognized the sacrifice of brave Americans who have given their lives in Iraq, and he pledged that his country would be a friend and ally of America in peace.

Along with a President and two Deputy Presidents, Prime Minister al-Alwai will lead a government of 33 ministers, which take office immediately and begin preparing for the transfer of full sovereignty by June the 30th. America and Great Britain are now working with the United Nations Security Council and Iraq's new leaders on a resolution that will endorse the sovereign government of Iraq and urge other nations to actively support it.

The Iraqi people are looking to us for help, and we will provide it. Many fine civilian professionals are now working in that country, helping Iraqis to rebuild their infrastructure and build the institutions of a free country. Along with the United Nations, we will help Iraq's new government to prepare for national elections by January 2005. This free election is what the terrorists in the country fear most. Free elections are exactly what they are going to see.

Our military is performing with skill and courage, and our Nation is proud of the United States military. Many brave Iraqis have stepped forward to fight for their own freedom, and we are working closely with them to disband and destroy the illegal militia, to defeat the terrorists, and to secure the safe arrival of Iraqi democracy. We're stepping up our efforts to train effective Iraqi security forces that will eventually defend the liberty of their own country.

At every stage of this process, before and after the transition to Iraqi sovereignty, the enemy is likely to be active and brutal. They know the stakes as well as we do. But our coalition is prepared, our will is strong, and neither Iraq's new leadership nor the United States will be intimidated by thugs and assassins.

As we fight the war on terror in Iraq and on other fronts, we must keep in mind the nature of the enemy. No act of America explains terrorist violence, and no concession of America could appease it. The terrorists who attacked our country on September the 11th, 2001, were not protesting our policies. They were protesting our existence. Some say that by fighting the terrorists abroad since September the 11th, we only stir up a hornet's nest, but the terrorists who struck that day were stirred up already. If America were not fighting terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere, what would these thousands of killers do, suddenly begin leading productive lives of service and charity? [*Laughter*] Would the terrorists who beheaded an American on camera just be quiet, peaceful citizens if America had not liberated Iraq? We are dealing here with killers who have made the death of Americans the calling of their lives. And America has made a decision about these terrorists: Instead of waiting for them to strike again in our midst, we will take this fight to the enemy.

I am confident of our cause in Iraq, but the struggle we have entered will not end with success in Iraq. Overcoming terrorism and bringing greater freedom to the nations of the Middle East is the work of decades. To prevail, America will need the swift and able transformed military you will help to build and lead. America will need a generation of Arab linguists and experts on Middle Eastern history and culture. America will need improved intelligence capabilities to track threats and expose the plans of unseen enemies.

Above all, America will need perseverance. This conflict will take many turns, with setbacks on the course to victory. Through it all, our confidence comes from one unshakable belief: We believe, in Ronald Reagan's words, that "the future belongs to the free." And we've seen the appeal of liberty with our own eyes. We have seen freedom firmly established in former enemies like Japan and Germany. We have seen freedom arrive on waves of unstoppable progress

to nations in Latin America and Asia and Africa and Eastern Europe. Now freedom is stirring in the Middle East, and no one should bet against it.

In the years immediately after World War II ended, our Nation faced more adversity and danger with the rise of imperial communism. In 1947, Communist forces were pressing a civil war in Greece and threatening Turkey. More than 2 years after the Nazi surrender, there was still starvation in Germany. Reconstruction seemed to be faltering, and the Marshall plan had not yet begun. In 1948, Berlin was blockaded on the orders of Josef Stalin. In 1949, the Soviet Union exploded a nuclear weapon, and Communists in China won their revolution.

All of this took place in the first 4 years of the cold war. If that generation of Americans had lost its nerve, there would have been no "long twilight struggle," only a long twilight. But the United States and our allies kept faith with captive people and stayed true to the vision of a democratic Europe, and that perseverance gave all the world a lesson in the power of liberty.

We are now about 3 years into the war against terrorism. We have overcome great challenges. We face many today, and there are more ahead. This is no time for impatience and self-defeating pessimism. These times demand the kind of courage and confidence that Americans have shown before. Our enemy can only succeed if we lose our will and faith in our own values. And ladies and gentlemen, our will is strong. We know our duty. By keeping our word and holding firm to our values, this generation will show the world the power of liberty once again.

For 4 years, you have trained and studied and worked for this moment. And now it has come. You are the ones who will defeat the enemies of freedom. Your country is depending on your courage and your dedication to duty. The eyes of the world are upon you. You leave this place at a historic time, and you enter this struggle ahead with the full confidence of your Commander in Chief. I thank each of you for accepting the hardships and high honor of service in the United States military. And I congratulate every member of the Rickenbacker Class of 2004.

May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:17 a.m. at Falcon Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. John P. Jumper, USAF, Air Force Chief of Staff; Lt. Gen. John W. Rosa, Jr., USAF, Superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; Prime Minister Ayad al-Alawi, President Ghazi Ujayl al-Yawr, Deputy President Ibrahim al-Jafari, and Deputy President Rowsch Shaways of the Iraqi interim government.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister John Howard of Australia

June 3, 2004

President Bush. Good morning. Thanks for coming. A couple of opening statements and then we'll answer two questions from each side.

It is my honor to welcome back to the White House my friend and our ally, Prime Minister John Howard. He is a close friend of mine. I appreciate the frequent discussions we have. I value his advice. I appreciate his clear vision.

Our two nations were allies in every major conflict of the last century. We've each lost citizens in the first war of the new century. I will never forget standing with the Prime Minister on September the 10th, 2001, the day before the world changed forever.

Americans will never forget the vicious attack in Bali which claimed the lives of dozens of innocent Australians. Today, Australians and Americans are standing together on the frontlines of freedom. As members of the common coalition, our two nations helped to free the people of Afghanistan and Iraq from the grip of tyranny. Today, we're working together to help the Afghan and Iraqi people build free societies and prevent tyranny's return.

Today the Prime Minister and I discussed our coalition's progress in Iraq. That country

took a major step 2 days ago when the new interim government was named. That government will assume full sovereignty later this month. Our coalition will remain in Iraq to help them along the path of freedom. The new Iraqi government's foremost task will be to prepare Iraq for a national election no later than January of next year and to work with our coalition to provide the security that will make that election possible. A sovereign Iraq deserves the full support of the international community as it works to establish a representative and freely elected system of government in the months ahead.

We're working toward a new Security Council resolution that will express international support for Iraq's interim government, reaffirm the world's security commitment to the Iraqi people, and encourage other U.N. members to join in the effort of building a free Iraq. I appreciate the Prime Minister's advice and support for the ongoing process. Today I'll leave for Europe, and then we'll host the G–8 Summit.

I will discuss—continue to discuss with world leaders our common responsibility to help the new government of Iraq and our common opportunity to help the—advance the momentum of freedom in the broader Middle East. Freedom must succeed in Iraq. In the long run, the defeat of terror requires the triumph of hope. A free Iraq rising in the heart of the Middle East will show the people of that region a clear alternative to the bitterness that feeds terror. Freedom is the true foundation of stability, prosperity, and peace. By working for freedom in the Middle East, we make America, Australia, and the world safer.

The United States and Australia are committed to the principles of human dignity. Today I assured the Prime Minister that my Nation will conduct a full accounting of the cruel and disgraceful abuse of Iraqi detainees. He strongly reflected his Government's and the Australian people's desires to make sure that the Australians being held in Guantanamo are not only treated fairly but their cases are brought to finality. And I appreciated your candid discussion, Mr. Prime Minister.

We also, of course, discussed issues that affect our economies. Just last month, our two nations signed an important free trade agreement that would eliminate nearly all tariffs on manufactured goods, open international markets, and deepen our strong economic ties. This agreement is good for both countries. And our Congress and the Australian Parliament should ratify the free trade agreement as soon as possible. I assured the Prime Minister that I'll work with leadership in the Congress—in our Congress to move this agreement forward.

Australia and the United States have never been closer. Our closeness is based on a shared belief in the power of freedom and democracy to change lives. As the Prime Minister has said, "The war on terror is not a contest of civilization. It is a contest of convictions." Our victory hinges on the free world's willingness to protect and encourage democratic values. I look forward to seeing the Prime Minister in France later this week as we commemorate the Normandy landings. It will be a fitting time to remember our partnerships in past wars of freedom as well as the sacrifices we have made together in our current struggle.

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome.

Prime Minister Howard. Thank you, Mr. President. May I express to you personally and to your wife, Laura, and to the members of your administration my gratitude for the very warm welcome that you've extended to me and my wife and the other members of my party. You reminded me, Mr. President, that the first occasion on which we met in our respective positions was, indeed, the 10th of September, 2001, at the naval dockyard not far from here, and then we later continued our discussions at the White House.

Since then, we have worked together not only as leaders of two countries that share the values of democracy, share the values of aspirational people who believe in economic achievements and individual liberty, but we've also worked together very closely in the war against terror. We continue to work closely with you and share your aspirations for a free and democratic Iraq.

The establishment of the Iraqi interim government is a major step forward. It is a light to the future, so far as Iraq is concerned. It is a visible demonstration of the willingness

of Iraqi leaders to stand before their people and to show leadership.

The Western World, the countries of the free world have a lot at stake in relation to Iraq. If the democratic future of Iraq can be achieved, that will have beneficial consequences not only in Iraq, but it will also be a wonderful demonstration in the Middle East and around the world that democracy is not something which is confined to countries that have historically enjoyed it. I regard that as something of an arrogant attitude on behalf of those who think that in some way democracy cannot be extended to countries that haven't regularly enjoyed it over past decades.

In recent weeks, the news out of Iraq has not been as positive as we would have liked, and the reasons for that are understood. But that has not altered Australia's view. We will keep a presence in Iraq. We will maintain a presence in Iraq until the job assigned to the individual force elements of the ADF have been completed. This is not a time—it is the worst time imaginable—for allies to be showing any weakness in relation of the pursuit of our goals in Iraq. And I express my strong support for the leadership that the President has continued to display, particularly through some of the more difficult aspects of recent weeks.

We did take the opportunity of canvassing the free trade agreement, and I share very much the President's hope that the legislative processes in both of our countries can be disposed of as soon as possible. From Australia's point of view, this is a great opportunity to link our strong economy with the strongest economy the world has ever seen.

The economic relationship between Australia and the United States can only get better in so many areas, and I had the opportunity in California of discussing growing energy links between our two countries.

I've welcomed the assurances the President has given me regarding the proper treatment of the two Australian detainees in Guantanamo Bay.

I also want to take this opportunity of emphasizing that the relationship between our two countries, which goes back a long way, to which the President referred, is very much a relationship which is built on shared values. We are both countries that treasure the democratic tradition. We are both countries that treasure individual freedom. We are both countries that believe in individual effort and reward for that effort.

Ours is a society, as is the United States, that encourages people to work hard and to seek reward for that hard work and, providing they pay their fair share of tax, to keep what they earn and to build on it and to invest for the future. Unless you have an aspirational society built on those principles, economic progress cannot be achieved.

We have been through, as nations, many struggles together. As the President said, we've been engaged together in every major conflict, beginning in World War I. But the thing that binds us together more than anything else is a common belief in certain fundamental values. And for me, the greatest opportunity that an occasion such as this presents is to reaffirm that common commitment.

We will differ. We will have changed emphasis. We will not agree on everything, but at the end of the day, if you share values in common, the relationship between two nations will always be sure, will always be predictable, and above all, will be enduring.

President Bush. Thanks, John.

Terry [Terence Hunt, Associated Press].

CIA Employee Identity Disclosure Investigation

Q. Mr. President, why have you consulted an attorney in the CIA leak investigation? Have you received any indication from prosecutors that they want to question you? And what could you tell them that might shed some light on this case?

President Bush. I've told our administration that we'll fully cooperate with their investigation. I want to know the truth, and I'm willing to cooperate myself. And you need to refer your questions to them.

In terms of whether or not I need advice from my counsel, this is a criminal matter. It's a serious matter. I have met with an attorney to determine whether or not I need his advice, and if I deem I need his advice, I'll probably hire him.

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. Yes.

Australian Detainees at Guantanamo Bay

Q. The Prime Minister said he got an assurance from you that the two Australians in Guantanamo Bay will get fair treatment. Can you give a guarantee they haven't been mistreated to this point, and when will you make a decision, or when will there be a decision made on whether they face trial?

President Bush. Yes. It is my understanding that Hicks—the Hicks case will be referred to the military shortly and that the other case is proceeding as well. And we are—the military is fully investigating any allegations as to whether or not they have been mistreated.

Let's see here. Morgan—David Morgan [Reuters]. Is that you?

Q. That's me.

President Bush. Okay.

Coalition Security Arrangement With Iraqi Interim Government

Q. Mr. President, Secretary Powell has made it clear that Iraq would have no veto power over U.S.-led forces after the formal handover on June 30th. Why do you believe that countries like France and Russia would back a U.N. Security Council resolution if the understanding is that it would leave the Iraqi government powerless to stop an unwelcome military offensive within its borders?

President Bush. Let me tell you this: The government of Iraq will be fully sovereign. And that means that our coalition will be there with the consent of the fully sovereign government, and that's what the U.N. resolution is going to say.

Now, Prime Minister Alawi has made it clear that he wants help from the coalition to deal with the security issues so that the country can have free elections. That's what he has said. He is the Prime Minister, and that's what he had said. We've had these arrangements before, these security arrangements, with other countries. We're good about forging relationships on the ground, respecting the sovereignty of the country, and at the same time being able to do our jobs that the host government expects to be done. And I am confident we'll work out a mutually acceptable security arrangement with the fully sovereign Iraqi government.

No other questions? This is unbelievable. You better hurry—no, no, no—Australian—sorry, Elisabeth [Elisabeth Bumiller, New York Times], you're not Australian. That's the second time in a row.

Prime Minister Howard. Mr. Lewis, Steve Lewis, The Australian.

President Bush. Nice try, though. She tried to become Australian. [*Laughter*]

Q. President Bush, if I could ask you a question——

President Bush. Where are you? There you are.

Q. Just here.

President Bush. Thank you.

Australian Elections and Commitment to Iraq

Q. Mr. Howard and yourself reaffirmed the commitment that Australia and the U.S. have to staying the course in Iraq. But you would be aware the alternative Prime Minister in Australia, Mark Latham, has promised to withdraw Australian troops from Iraq by Christmas——

President Bush. Yes.

Q. ——if he wins the election. What signal——

President Bush. That, that——

Q. What signal would that send to the Iraqi people and the other members of the coalition?

President Bush. I think that would be disastrous. It would be a disastrous decision for the leader of a great country like Australia to say that, "We're pulling out." It would dispirit those who love freedom in Iraq. It would say that the Australian Government doesn't see the hope of a free and democratic society leading to a peaceful world. It would embolden the enemy who believe that they can shake our will. See, they want to kill innocent life because they think that the Western World and the free world is weak, that when times get tough we will shirk our duty to those who long for freedom, and we'll leave. And I—anyway.

Q. Mr. President, can I ask you and Prime Minister Howard——

President Bush. No, you can't anymore. Thank you all very much for coming.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 9:53 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

In his remarks, he referred to Australian citizen David Hicks, a detainee at the U.S. Navy base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and Prime Minister Ayad al-Alawi of the Iraqi interim government. Prime Minister Howard referred to his wife, Janette.

Remarks on the Resignation of George J. Tenet as Director of Central Intelligence

June 3, 2004

Today George Tenet, the Director of the CIA, submitted a letter of resignation. I met with George last night in the White House. I had a good visit with him. He told me he was resigning for personal reasons. I told him I'm sorry he's leaving. He's done a superb job on behalf of the American people. I accepted his letter. He will serve at the CIA as the Director until mid-July, at which time the Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, John McLaughlin, will serve as the Acting Director.

George Tenet is the kind of public service you like—servant you like to work with. He's strong. He's resolute. He served his Nation as the Director for 7 years. He has been a strong and able leader at the Agency. He's been a strong leader in the war on terror, and I will miss him. I send my blessings to George and his family. I look forward to working with him until the time he leaves the Agency. And I wish him all the very best.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:26 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Determination Under Subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as Amended—Continuation of Waiver Authority for Turkmenistan

June 3, 2004

Presidential Determination No. 2004–32

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Determination Under Subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as Amended—Continuation of Waiver Authority for Turkmenistan

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, Public Law 93–618, 88 Stat. 1978 (hereinafter the "Act"), I determine, pursuant to section 402(d)(1) of the Act, 19 U.S.C. 2432(d)(1), that the further extension of the waiver authority granted by section 402 of the Act will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act. I further determine that continuation of the waiver applicable to Turkmenistan will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:36 a.m., June 8, 2004]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 9.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Determination on Trade With Turkmenistan

June 3, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby transmit the document referred to in subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (the "Act"), as amended, with respect to the continuation of a waiver of application of subsections (a) and (b) of section 402 of the Act to Turkmenistan. This document constitutes my recommendation to continue this waiver for a further 12-month period and includes my determination that continuation of the waiver currently in effect for Turkmenistan will substantially promote the

objectives of section 402 of the Act, and my reasons for such determination.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 3, 2004.

Determination Under Subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as Amended—Continuation of Waiver Authority for the Republic of Belarus

June 3, 2004

Presidential Determination No. 2004–33

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Determination Under Subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as Amended—Continuation of Waiver Authority for the Republic of Belarus

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, Public Law 93–618, 88 Stat. 1978 (hereinafter the "Act"), I determine, pursuant to section 402(d)(1) of the Act, 19 U.S.C. 2432(d)(1), that the further extension of the waiver authority granted by section 402 of the Act will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act. I further determine that continuation of the waiver applicable to the Republic of Belarus will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:36 a.m., June 8, 2004]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 9.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Determination on Trade With Belarus

June 3, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby transmit the document referred to in subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (the "Act"), as amended, with respect to the continuation of a waiver of application of subsections (a) and (b) of section 402 of the Act to the Republic of Belarus. This document constitutes my recommendation to continue this waiver for a further 12-month period and includes my determination that continuation of the waiver currently in effect for Belarus will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act, and my reasons for such determination.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 3, 2004.

Determination Under Subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as Amended—Continuation of Waiver Authority for Vietnam

June 3, 2004

Presidential Determination No. 2004–34

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Determination Under Subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as Amended—Continuation of Waiver Authority for Vietnam

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, Public Law 93–618, 88 Stat. 1978 (hereinafter the "Act"), I determine, pursuant to subsection 402(d)(1) of the Act, 19 U.S.C. 2432(d)(1), that the further extension of the waiver authority granted by section 402 of the Act will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act. I further determine that continuation of the waiver applicable to Vietnam will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:36 a.m., June 8, 2004]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 9.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Determination on Trade With Vietnam

June 3, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby transmit the document referred to in subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (the "Act"), as amended, with respect to the continuation of a waiver of application of subsections (a) and (b) of section 402 of the Act to Vietnam. This document constitutes my recommendation to continue in effect this waiver for a further 12-month period and includes my determination that continuation of the waiver currently in effect for Vietnam will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act and my reasons for such determination.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 3, 2004.

Memorandum on Designation of the Kingdom of Morocco as a Major Non-NATO Ally

June 3, 2004

Presidential Determination No. 2004–35

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Designation of the Kingdom of Morocco as a Major Non-NATO Ally

Consistent with the authority vested in me by section 517 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "Act"), I hereby designate the Kingdom of Morocco as a Major Non-NATO Ally of the United States for the purposes of the Act and the Arms Export Control Act.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Interview With Paris Match Magazine

May 28, 2004

France-U.S. Relations

Q. You'll be walking on Omaha Beach in Normandy, France. Does that mean that you're not angry at us anymore?

The President. I've never been angry at the French. France has been a long-time ally, and I—look, I made a difficult decision, and not everybody agreed with it. But I understand that. And now is the time to work together to promote the values we believe in, which is human rights and human dignity and rule of law and freedom and justice.

And Omaha Beach is a symbol of working together to uphold the values that unite us. It's an interesting time in history to be going to Omaha Beach.

Q. For 200 years, America and France have walked hand in hand, sharing the same values you are speaking about. Last year, for the first time we were not allies. What went wrong?

The President. I don't—you need to talk to the French leadership.

Q. Speaking of the French leadership——

The President. For whom I have great respect.

Q. Yes. But Jacques Chirac was a good friend of your father. He was one of the first—I think the first President to congratulate you in person on your election day.

The President. Right here, that's right.

Q. Yes. He also was the first in New York after 9/11, the first foreign leader to fly over the ruins of the World Trade Center. I mean, it's—for the French people, people don't understand what happened between the two of you.

The President. I just think he just didn't agree with upholding the Security Council resolution that said, "Disarm. Prove you disarm, or face serious consequences." He voted—France voted for that resolution, as did the United States. It was the "face serious consequences" part. And friends can disagree. I've got—I've had friends all my life, who I call friends, who didn't agree with every decision I made. And Jacques made it perfectly clear to me, he didn't believe the

use of military force was necessary, and we discussed it as friends would discuss it.

Q. Does that mean now that the French President will be invited in Crawford in the near future?

The President. If he wants to come and see some cows, he's welcome to come out there and see some cows. [*Laughter*]

Proposed U.N. Security Council Resolution on Iraq

Q. You're now asking the United Nations to help you find a solution to the Iraqi crisis. Is it——

The President. No—may I stop you? May I? No, we're going to the United Nations again to pass a resolution which supports a new government to which full sovereignty has been transferred.

You know, after World War II, a lot of people didn't think Germany could be free and democratic, nor Japan. And there were people that just didn't believe it was true. Fortunately, there were optimists and people who adhered to their principles and value systems, based upon rule of law and democracy, justice. And they had the day. They ruled the day—fortunately, their opinions did—so that now some of our strongest allies in the war are Germany and Japan. No, it's never too late to believe people can be free.

Situation in Iraq

Q. But it's obviously more difficult than you expected.

The President. Well, some parts are, and some parts aren't. I thought going in, there would be mass refugee flows, mass starvation, oil fields would be blown up. None of that happened. What did happen was, is that we moved so quickly through the country——

Q. But I'm speaking about——

The President. Let me finish. We moved so quickly through the country that many of the former Saddam loyalists just melted into the countryside and have come back to try to stop the advance of freedom. And the other thing that's happened is foreign fighters are in Iraq, who are convincing suiciders to kill innocent Iraqis.

And it's tough. It's hard work. But we will prevail, because people want to be free, and that's important. And that's why it's necessary for the world to come together at this point, to be able to help the Iraqi people form their government—not an American government, not something that looks like America, but something uniquely Iraqi. And that's what we're doing.

Nature of the U.S. Presence in the World

Q. The whole world remembers you addressing the firemen in the ruins of the World Trade Center. You were healing the wounds and uniting the world at that time. Today, your message through the megaphone doesn't reach the world. Don't you feel isolated?

The President. No, I feel very comfortable with what I'm doing.

Q. Yes, but all the nations——

The President. Let me finish my—you ask a question. I give you the answers. And then if you want to ask another question, you're allowed to do so.

I believe that the United States must continue to work with other nations. And there are a lot of nations working in Afghanistan and in Iraq to not only deal with terror, the immediate effects of terror—and that is, finding people before they hurt somebody again—but also to spread freedom. Free societies are peaceful societies. Free societies are hopeful societies. And there's a lot of nations working to get her to do so.

I also believe that the United States must work to feed the hungry. We're the most generous nation on the face of the Earth when it comes to feeding hungry people or fighting the pandemic of HIV/AIDS in Africa, for example. I've asked our Congress, and the Congress has passed $15 billion over 5 years to help fight that pandemic. And we are a nation that is tough when we have to be tough to protect our security and compassionate when it comes to the suffering of others. And hopefully, people will see the results of that—of the generosity of the American people.

Now, your followup question.

Abu Ghraib Prison

Q. Talking about the photo of torture and abused prisoners, the First Lady said, "This is unbearable." The moral leadership of a

President is his highest power of all. Do you feel responsible in any way for this moral failure in Iraq?

The President. First of all, I feel responsible for letting the world see that we will deal with this in a transparent way, that people will see that justice will be delivered. And what I regret most of all is that the great honor of our country has been stained by the actions of a few people, the first of whom is going to jail—or has been tried and convicted and will be sentenced—please correct that; I'm not going to deem the sentences—been tried and convicted, in an open way, for people to see, which stands in stark contrast to a tyrannical society in which prison abuse would never even come forth in the first place. And the contrast is going to be instructive for people in the world to see.

And Laura is just like me. We both reacted the same way. It was a stain on our honor.

Q. Do you still feel that stain on your honor today?

The President. Of course. I mean, this is—you know, America is a great and generous and decent country. And the behavior of a few, you know, does not reflect the true nature of the men and women who wear our uniform, overseas or at home, or the character of the American people.

Arrest of Saddam Hussein/President's Meeting With Tortured Iraqis

Q. That morning when—now I'm going to go to more positive—I mean positive news—when you learned that——

The President. It's positive news. You're giving me a chance.

Q. ——they had arrested Saddam, was this the best moment of your Presidency?

The President. It was a big moment in my Presidency. No, I wouldn't say it's the best moment. The best moment happened when—you know, when I meet people who do heroic things, whether it's to help somebody who hurts or whether it's a generous citizen who lifts up the spirit of a person. And I fully realize that those thousands of acts of kindness lift up the whole spirit of the country. Those are the best moments.

The capture of Saddam was a satisfying moment. It wasn't the best moment. It was satisfying because it was part of our mission, was to free the people from this brutal dictator.

I'll tell you a great moment in my Presidency, not the best but a good moment. The other day seven people came in to see me. They had had their right hands cut off by Saddam Hussein. These were merchants in Baghdad—or in Iraq. I think most of them lived in Baghdad—small businessmen. And the currency in Iraq had begun to devalue, and Saddam Hussein needed a scapegoat. And so he chose these merchants, who he claimed were manipulating the currency, and he had their hands cut off for doing so. And then they had an X carved in their foreheads.

An American filmmaker made a documentary of this, reminding people of the brutality of Saddam Hussein, how he just would whimsically torture or maim people. And a guy in Houston, a man in Houston who works in the television business, has a foundation, saw the documentary, put the money up, and flew these seven men to give them new hands, the latest technologies.

And they came to the Oval Office to see me. It was an incredibly touching moment. They were so grateful to the United States and the free world for liberating their country from Saddam Hussein and incredibly grateful to the generosity of these individual Americans who decided to do something about their plight. Now, those are the kind of great moments I love.

Situation in Iraq/Transfer of Sovereignty

Q. Six months, though, after the capture of Saddam, each day brings the terrible news of American soldiers killed in action. Why the Iraqis are turning their guns against their liberators?

The President. Well, because there are some who can't stand the thought of being—can't stand the thought of freedom emerging in their country. In other words, they understand what free societies will do. A free society will change the habits and raise the aspirations and hopes. There are foreign fighters who come into Iraq to make this a front in the war on terror because they want to stop the advance of freedom.

A free society is how you solve the long-term issue of terror. In other words, hopelessness breeds fanaticism and terrorism. Freedom helps defeat hopelessness.

Q. If you were an Iraqi, would you understand that—would you feel the occupation as a burden?

The President. Yes.

Q. Could you understand that?

The President. Of course I can.

Q. I mean, being——

The President. I say it all—I say it all the time publicly. Yes, I wouldn't want to be occupied.

Q. So you cannot say that these are people—you cannot say that all these people are terrorists and——

The President. No. I agree. Not all of them are. But I am convinced——

Q. Even the ones that, you know, takes——

The President. The suiciders—and some of them aren't. And they don't like to be occupied, and neither would I, and neither would anybody. That's why we're handing over sovereignty. Full sovereignty will be transferred here very shortly. I mean, you're talking—I'm not sure when your magazine is coming out.

Q. Next Thursday.

The President. Well, full sovereignty will happen on June 30th. You'll begin to see the government to whom full sovereignty will be passed.

Q. The names of people?

The President. I think so, yes. Absolutely. Not only the names of people, but there will be, shortly thereafter, a U.N. Security Council resolution that will embrace the new government. And that's important. But I fully understand people not wanting to be occupied. I wouldn't either.

Belief in God/Concept of Freedom

Q. Could you understand—your political action is inspired by God, you say a number of times——

The President. I said what?

Q. Is inspired by God, I mean, your——

The President. My political action? I've never said that.

Q. You've never said that? I mean, I'm not quoting you.

The President. No, I've never said that.

Q. I said, in general, you relate to God as a——

The President. You said, my political action is caused by God, I think.

Q. No, no, no, no, I said your political action is inspired by God.

The President. No, my political action is—my life is inspired by God.

Q. But this has a political consequence when you speak about freedom, the notion of freedom, you relate it to God.

The President. Oh, I see what you're saying. What I say is, I say that freedom is not America's gift to the world. In other words, I'm making it clear to people that freedom is more universal than a country. Freedom is more universal than man. See, I believe freedom is the Almighty's gift to everybody in the world. And the reason I say that is because I don't want people to think that there is such thing as—that we want the world to look like America. I understand it's not going to. But freedom is universal. Freedom is applied here. Freedom is applied in France. Freedom is a part of—will be a part of a new Iraq.

President's Daughters

Q. Do you ever worry about the judgment your daughters might make years from now——

The President. No.

Q. ——as they reflect on your current actions?

The President. No. I don't worry about the judgments my daughters are going to make. They're adults. They'll be able to make their own decisions. The only thing I can do with my daughters is tell them I love every day, which I try to do.

Cannes Film Festival Palme d'Or

Q. At the moment, the relationship with France is getting better.

The President. I hope so.

Q. Yes. I really do too. How did you react when the Cannes Film Festival jury gave the award, the Palme d'Or, to Michael Moore's movie?

The President. I didn't pay any attention to it.

Q. Thanks.

The President. I didn't. Thank you.

Q. Thank you very much.

The President. Good luck to you.

NOTE: The interview began at 1:08 p.m. in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House, and the transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 4. In his remarks, the President referred to President Jacques Chirac of France; Specialist Jeremy C. Sivits, USA, who was convicted of abusing Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib Prison; Don North, documentary film producer; Marvin Zindler, member, board of directors, Agris-Zindler Children's Fund; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Remarks on Presenting the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Pope John Paul II at the Vatican City State

June 4, 2004

The President. Your Holiness, thank you very much for receiving Laura and me and our delegation. I bring greetings from our country, where you are respected, admired, and greatly loved.

I also bring a message from my Government that says to you, sir, we will work for human liberty and human dignity, in order to spread peace and compassion, that we appreciate the strong symbol of freedom that you have stood for, and we recognize the power of freedom to change societies and to change the world.

And so, sir, we're honored to be here. Perhaps the best way I can express my country's gratitude to you and our respect to you is to present to you the Medal of Freedom from America. And if you might allow, I'd like to read the citation attached to that honor:

"A devoted servant of God, His Holiness Pope John Paul II has championed the cause of the poor, the weak, the hungry, and the outcast. He has defended the unique dignity of every life and the goodness of all life. Through his faith and moral conviction, he has given courage to others to be not afraid in overcoming injustice and oppression. His principled stand for peace and freedom has inspired millions and helped to topple communism and tyranny. The United States honors this son of Poland who became the Bishop of Rome and a hero of our time."

And so, on behalf of the American people, Your Holiness, I would be honored if you would accept our Medal of Freedom.

[*The President and the First Lady presented the medal and congratulated Pope John Paul II.*]

Pope John Paul II. I am very grateful, Mr. President, for this thoughtful gesture. May the desire for freedom, peace, a more humane world symbolized by this medal inspire men and women of good will in every time and place.

God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:58 p.m. at the Epistolic Palace. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of the "Worker Reemployment Accounts Act"

June 4, 2004

I commend the House for passing the "Worker Reemployment Accounts Act," which establishes a pilot program for Personal Reemployment Accounts.

Personal Reemployment Accounts are an important reform in Federal job training, because workers decide how to use the funds to maximize their likelihood of securing a job. A Personal Reemployment Account gives unemployed Americans additional choices and flexibility to help them return to work more quickly. They can use funds from their account to pay for what they need most to help find a job—special training, childcare, transportation, relocation assistance, or a combination of these. Finally, there is a reemployment bonus that lets workers who return to work quickly keep any leftover funds from their account.

These innovative accounts that I proposed last year put decisionmaking and resources directly in the hands of individuals who need the most help getting back to work. I urge

the Senate to pass this important legislation so that we can help every American who wants to work find a job.

Proclamation 7795—Great Outdoors Month, 2004

June 4, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

More than 200 years ago, Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark embarked upon an expedition to explore uncharted lands and find passage across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. During the Captains' journey, their Corps of Discovery encountered remarkable landscapes, observed wildlife, and traded with American Indians. Two years into his experience, Captain Lewis was inspired by the beauty of a waterfall along the Missouri River that he called in his journal, "the grandest sight I ever beheld." Today, the splendor of the great outdoors continues to inspire our citizens, and a love of outdoor recreation remains a fundamental part of the American character. By observing Great Outdoors Month, we celebrate our commitment to appreciating and protecting our natural wealth.

Outdoor recreation is an ideal way to exercise and enjoy memorable experiences with family and friends, and all across our country are scenic places that sports and nature enthusiasts can explore and help keep beautiful. During Great Outdoors Month and throughout the year, I encourage Americans to go camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, bird watching, boating, or to participate in other outdoor activities that are part of a healthy lifestyle.

The true strength of our Nation lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens, and I urge all Americans not only to visit our parks and recreation areas, but also to volunteer their time and talents to help maintain the beauty of our environment. Good stewardship of the environment is not just a personal responsibility, it is a public value; and citizens who lend a hand to local parks and public lands are vital to the preservation of our Nation's many special places. Americans can take pride in the remarkable progress we continue to make in conserving our environment and natural resources.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2004 as Great Outdoors Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to participate in safe and enjoyable outdoor recreation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:36 a.m., June 8, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 9.

Remarks to Reporters in Rome, Italy

June 4, 2004

National Economy

Today's job report shows that the American economy is strong and it's getting stronger. Two hundred forty eight thousand jobs for last month is good for the American workers. It shows that our economy is vital and growing. We've added 900,000 jobs over the last 3 months and 1.4 million jobs since last August. The policies in place are working. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong. The small-business sector of our economy is vibrant. And I'm pleased the American worker is doing their job.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:36 p.m. at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 29

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

May 30

In the afternoon, the President welcomed Rolling Thunder leaders at the South Portico and then met with them in the Oval Office.

May 31

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Arlington, VA, where they participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

June 1

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He also had a telephone conversation with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain to discuss the situation in Iraq. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Ayad al-Alawi and President Ghazi Ujayl al-Yawr of Iraq to congratulate them on assuming leadership and to discuss Iraqi-U.S. cooperation.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Denver, CO, where, upon arrival, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Rick Sullivan.

June 2

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Colorado Springs, CO, where, upon arrival at Peterson Air Force Base, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Gloria Moran.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, in the Residence, the President met with Central Intelligence Agency Director George J. Tenet to discuss Director Tenet's decision to resign.

June 3

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Rome, Italy, arriving early the next morning.

The President declared a major disaster in Indiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding beginning on May 27 and continuing.

June 4

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Quirinale Palace, he met with President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi of Italy.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Vatican City, where they participated in a greeting with Pope John Paul II. Later, the President met with Angelo Cardinal Sodano, Secretary of State of the Holy See.

Later in the afternoon, after returning to Rome, the President and Mrs. Bush toured the Fosse Ardeatine mausoleum and participated in a wreath-laying ceremony there.

In the evening, at Villa Taverna, the U.S. Ambassador's residence, the President and Mrs. Bush greeted U.S. Embassy personnel and U.S. veterans. Later, at Villa Madama, they attended a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy.

The President announced his intention to nominate John C. Danforth to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations with the rank of Ambassador, U.S. Representative to the United Nations Security Council, and U.S. Representative to the United Nations General Assembly.

The President announced his intention to nominate Douglas L. McElhaney to be Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The President announced his intention to nominate Aldona Wos to be Ambassador to Estonia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Luis Luna to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Administration and Resource Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kenneth Francis Hackett and Christine Todd Whitman to be members of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Reggie B. Walton as Chairman of the National Prison Rape Reduction Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Thomas M. Garrott, Betty S. Ireland, and James E. Nevels as members of the Advisory Committee to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

The President announced his intention to designate Thomas Dunne as Acting Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

The President announced his intention to designate Stephen Koplan as Chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The President announced his intention to designate Deanna Tanner Okun as Vice Chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The President announced his intention to designate Mary Ann Melody Larson McDonald as Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

The President declared a major disaster in Ohio and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on May 18 and continuing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 1

Robert Cramer Balfe III,
of Arkansas, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas for the term of 4 years, vice Thomas C. Gean, resigned.

Carin M. Barth,
of Texas, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, vice Angela Antonelli.

Herman Belz,
of Maryland, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2010, vice Linda Lee Aaker, term expired.

Peter Cyril Wyche Flory,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Jack Dyer Crouch II.

Craig Haffner,
of California, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2010, vice Michael Pack, term expired.

John H. Hager,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, vice Robert Pasternack.

James Davidson Hunter,
of Virginia, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2010, vice Edward L. Ayers, term expired.

Tamar Jacoby,
of New Jersey, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2010, vice Pedro G. Castillo, term expired.

Harvey Klehr,
of Georgia, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2010, vice Theodore William Striggles, term expired.

Thomas K. Lindsay,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2010, vice Ira Berlin, term expired.

Iris Love,
of Vermont, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2010, vice Evelyn Edson, term expired.

Thomas Mallon,
of Connecticut, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2010 (reappointment).

David E. Nahmias,
of Georgia, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia for the term of 4 years, vice William S. Duffey, Jr.

Ricardo Quinones,
of California, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2010, vice Amy Apfel Kass, term expired.

William Sanchez,
of Florida, to be Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices for a term of 4 years, vice Juan Carlos Benitez, resigned.

Veronica Vargas Stidvent,
of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Chris Spear, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released June 1

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's trip to Europe and the G–8 Summit

Statement by the Press Secretary: Proliferation Security Initiative

Statement by the Press Secretary on the California court ruling on partial-birth abortion

Statement by the Press Secretary: Presidential Designation of Foreign Narcotics Kingpins

Fact sheet: Overview of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act

Fact sheet: America's Compassion in Action

Released June 2

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released June 3

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Indiana

Released June 4

Transcript of a roundtable interview of Council of Economic Advisers Chairman N. Gregory Mankiw and National Economic Council Director Stephen Friedman

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Ohio

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Ghazi Ajil al-Yawer of the Iraqi Interim Government To Attend the G–8 Summit in Sea Island

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

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